

# Java™ magazine

By and for the Java community 

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## SHOCK THE SENSES

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Polyglot Programmer

### TOWARD A UNIVERSAL VM

Oracle's Alex Buckley on the JVM Language Summit 2011.

A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a light blue and white checkered button-down shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is holding a black mobile phone to his left ear with his left hand, which also features a watch with a dark, textured strap. He is looking slightly to his right with a neutral expression. In the background, there is a large, out-of-focus sign that reads 'MOVING JAVA FORWARD' in white and blue text on a yellow and blue background. To the left of the man, another blurred sign with a flame-like logo is visible. The overall setting appears to be a professional or conference environment.



JavaFX 2.0, now generally available for Windows (and in Developer Preview mode for Mac OS X), allows you to write apps in plain old Java using standard development tools—unlike 1.0, which required knowledge of a custom scripting language. Furthermore, at JavaOne, Oracle announced its intention to fully open source the platform via the OpenJDK Project, and pursue its standardization via the Java Community Process. (Read all about these developments, and more, in our JavaFX coverage in this issue.) Looks like Java developers working client-side will finally get their next-generation successor to Swing.

**//send us your feedback /**

We'll review all suggestions for future improvements. Depending on volume, some messages may not get a direct reply.



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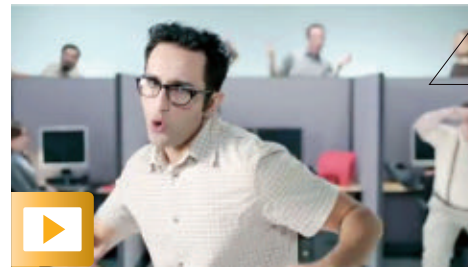
## Java 8 Lambda Expressions Syntax Decided by JSR-335 Expert Group

[parameters], [a single arrow ->], and [an expression or statement(s)].

```
x -> x + 1
(x, y) -> x + y
(x, y) -> { System.out.printf("%d + %d = %d\n", x, y, x+y); }
```

Reviewing the Java Lambda syntax decision, Specification Lead Brian Goetz [commented](#): “Despite extensive searching, there was no clear winner among the alternatives (each form had some good aspects and some really not very good aspects, and there was no form that was clearly better than the others). So, we felt that it was better to choose something that has already been shown to work well in the two languages that are most like Java—C# and Scala—rather than to invent something new.”

For background on closures in Java, see Mark Reinhold's blog post "[Closures for Java](#)." Soon you'll be able to experiment with Lambda expressions by downloading [JDK 8](#). Visit the [OpenJDK's Project Lambda](#) site for more information.



Do you code hard in your cubicle? This original rap music video, made for JavaOne 2011, celebrates the "Java Life." Watch and see if *you're* living the Java life.

**Mike DeNicola** of Fujitsu won the JCP Member of the Year Award, for his contributions as chair of the JCP.next [JSR-348](#) working group. DeNicola's efforts on the JCP reform plans increased the pace of progress on this critical JSR.

[JSR-292](#), "Supporting Dynamically Typed Languages on the Java Platform," won the Most Innovative JSR Award. The awards committee noted, "As the first JSR specifically designed to support languages other than Java, JSR-292 will ensure the long-term success of the Java VM."

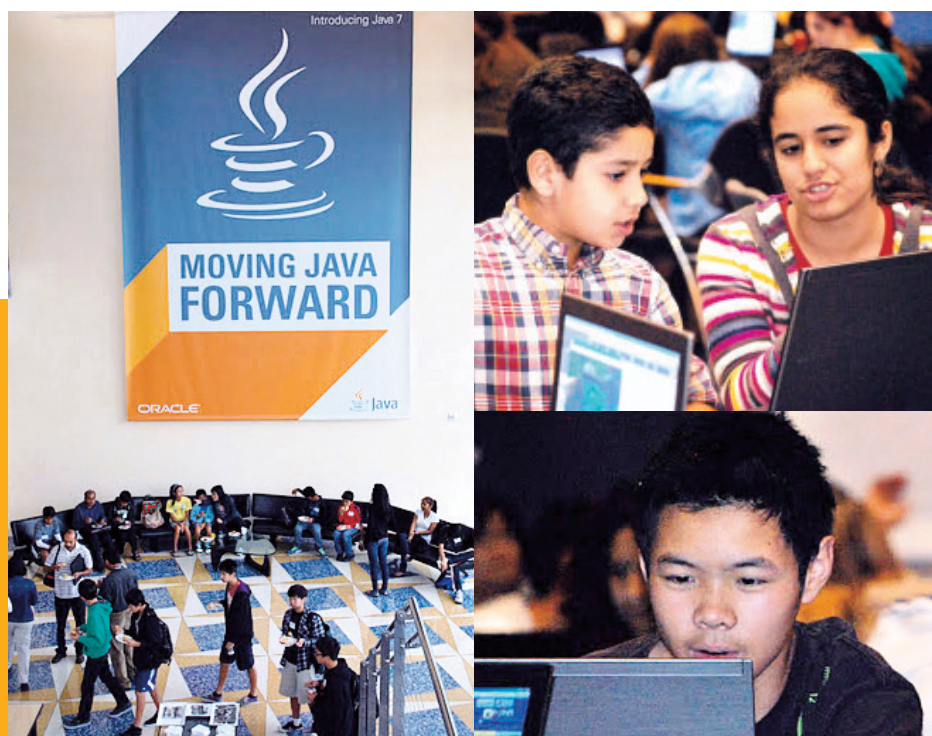
The Outstanding Spec Lead Award went to JSR-292's [John Rose](#), consulting engineer at Oracle, for his efforts in forging consensus among the diverse participants in JSR-292, including the Expert Group and the wider Java Virtual Machine language community. Following the awards, Rose expressed being [deeply touched](#) by the recognition, and thanked his colleagues. "Together we introduced fundamentally new instructions and datatypes into the Java Virtual Machine, an undertaking that was both ambitious and complex," he wrote. "Carrying out this work required the dedicated efforts of the JSR-292 Expert Group members, our fellow engineers, corporate sponsors, and the Da Vinci Machine community."

There could only be three winners, but all of this year's nominees deserve recognition for their significant contributions to the JCP.






Hear from the next generation of Java programmers.



## EVENTS

**JAVAONE 2011 LATIN AMERICA** DECEMBER 6-8, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL



JavaOne, the world's best conference for the Java community, is headed for Latin America. JavaOne offers Java experts and enthusiasts three days of learning and networking focused entirely on all things Java. Sessions and demos cover everything from building modern applications using JDK 7 to leveraging JavaFX, creating client-side applications, and more. Connect with some of the world's foremost Java experts, collaborate with peers, and celebrate your role in the vibrant and growing Java community. Register today!

## NOVEMBER

QCon International  
Software Development  
Conference

**NOVEMBER 14-18, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

This practitioner-driven conference is designed for team leads, architects, and project managers. It includes two tutorial days and three conference days with 18 tracks and more than 80 speakers covering relevant and emerging topics in software development. Don't miss the featured track, Why Java Is Still Sexy.

Devoxx 2011  
NOVEMBER 14-18,  
ANTWERP, BELGIUM  
This annual European

Java conference is organized by the Belgian Java User Group. It features a two-day in-depth Devovx University program, followed by three days of conference sessions. Demos of Java tools, hands-on labs, birds-of-a-feather sessions, and opportunities for attendees to give quick presentations are also on the agenda.

## DECEMBER

IndicThreads  
Conference on Java  
*DECEMBER 2-3,*  
*PUNE, INDIA*  
The 6th Annual  
IndicThreads Conference  
on Java is the premier  
independent confer-

ence on Java technology in India and is *the* place to be to learn the latest in the Java world while meeting with like-minded individuals from across the industry. The conference focuses on new and groundbreaking technologies and emerging trends, successful practices, and real-world learning. Session topics include Java language specifications and standards; enterprise Java; Java for mobile devices; Java for multicore computing; optimization, scaling, caching, and performance tuning; and more.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GETTY IMAGES



JAVA IN ACTION



ups beginning with scripting languages and porting bits of their architecture over to Java when they need scaling," he added.



"Developers now have access to Java.net components directly from the Central Repository, requiring no debugging or additional configurations," says Jason van Zyl, Sonatype founder and CTO.

Read a sample chapter:  
"Java Fundamentals."



Herb Schildt's classic Java programming resource is thoroughly updated to cover the new features in JDK 7. This expert guide offers comprehensive coverage of the Java language, its syntax, keywords, and fundamental programming principles. Descriptions of key API libraries are also included. Of course, details on new JDK 7 features, such as try-with-resources, type inference via the diamond operator, catching multiple exception types (multicatch), upgrades to NIO, and the fork/join framework, are provided.



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## Duke's Best and Brightest

The Duke's Choice Awards were created in 2003 to honor extreme innovation in the world of Java technology. The 2011 Duke's Choice Awards, presented at JavaOne 2011, showcased the amazing results of projects supported by thousands of development hours. The winning projects and companies are as follows:

- **Arquillian.** This project simplifies integration testing for Java-based applications.
- **dooApp.** Infiltrate is dooApp's JavaFX and Java Platform, Standard Edition solution, designed for green building professionals whose job involves measuring the airtightness of buildings.
- **Inductive Automation.** Ignition is Inductive Automation's Java-based Web application that integrates different manufacturing machines using a central Web server.
- **jHome.** This complete home automation open source API, based on GlassFish Server Open Source Edition and Java Platform, Enterprise Edition (Java EE), enables developers to control anything in their homes.
- **JFrog.** JFrog's Artifactory is the world's first binary repository manager and is built with the Content Repository API for Java specification.
- **JRebel.** This Java Virtual Machine plug-in enables Java developers to instantly see any code change made to an application.
- **LMAX Disruptor.** This solution is a multithreaded, open source concurrent programming framework designed for high-performance and low-latency transaction processing.
- **Rockwell Automation.** This company's Java-enabled human-machine interface line of products will allow the automated communication and exchange of data to factory floor lines.
- **Sodbeans Project.** This open source, NetBeans-based module suite is designed to enhance accessibility for the blind in modern programming environments.
- **The Netty Project.** This Java-based, new I/O client/server framework enables quick and easy development of network applications.

"The Duke's Choice Awards showcase the incredible creativity that takes place every day in the Java community," says Amit Zavery, vice president of product management in Oracle Fusion Middleware. "This year's winners demonstrate the countless ways that Java technology can be used to create innovative applications and products. Put in the hands of creative and passionate individuals, Java can have a significant impact on our lives." —Marta Bright



Meet Vinny Senger, the technical lead of jHome, a complete home automation API based on GlassFish Server Open Source Edition and Java Platform, Enterprise Edition that lets you control anything in your home.

use of JavaFX, a leading user interface, graphics, and media framework for developing rich internet applications in the Java environment (see sidebar, page 11). The software is also the winner of this year's Duke's Choice Award for Innovative Green Technology, presented at this year's JavaOne conference in San Francisco, California, in October.

### AIRTIGHT, ENERGY EFFICIENT

Airtightness is one of the key measurements of a building's energy efficiency, and it's a major goal of green building. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, buildings in the U.S. create 48 percent of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions and consume most of the electricity the nation's power plants generate. Making buildings more energy efficient reduces both the demand and pollution.

When buildings "leak," some of the energy their heating and cooling systems consume to create

a comfortable indoor environment is wasted; buildings that are airtight, on the other hand, consume less energy because they waste less through leakage. "Green buildings need to be airtight," explains Mischler.

In Europe, regulation EN 13829 mandates what is called a *blower door test* to determine if new construction, both residential and commercial, meets airtightness requirements. It also defines the testing method, criteria, and reporting requirements. Individual countries have their own regulations; in France, for example, RT 2012 and its stricter airtightness standard began taking effect in late 2011.

Infiltrate provides an end-to-end solution for the airtightness testing process, says Mischler. The application includes a blower door connection, standard tests and charts, and report-writing features. The charts, created with JavaFX, provide the main view of the test's measurements.



dooApp's Infiltrate application helps green building professionals to measure airtightness, a critical component in green building. The 2.0 release of Infiltrate is Web-enabled using the JavaFX WebView component, as seen here in the project outline view.





**Antoine Mischler (center) and the dooApp team brainstorm about enhancements to the Infiltria application.**

"The goal of the process is to compute some indicators saying whether the building is good or bad," says Mischler, noting that *good* means it meets regulatory requirements.

A blower door system consists of a calibrated fan, a door-panel system, and a device to measure the fan flow and building pressure. The blower door fan is temporarily sealed into an exterior doorway and then blows air into or out of the building, creating a pressure difference between inside and outside. The pressure difference forces air through all

the holes and penetrations in the building's exterior envelope, including the walls, doors, and windows. The tighter the building, the fewer holes or leaks there are in its envelope and the less air that is needed from the blower door fan to create a change in the building's pressure.

The Infiltria software runs on Windows, Mac OS, and Linux; it records the test and presents a visual representation of its progress in real time. "Our software is connected to the measuring device and to the blower door, and

acquires the measurements," says Mischler. "With Infiltria, the professional has a chart that shows the pressure in the building and the airflow in real time."

Once recorded, the measurements are published in two reports, directly from Infiltria. The first, a technical report, is a two-pager that includes the building's features, the testing criteria, and a chart of results. The second is a longer and more complex legal report that conforms to EN 13829. It can include photos, logos, plans, thermal surveys, and other relevant data and can be published in a number of formats, including PDF, .docx, HTML, RTF, and others. "At the end," Mischler says, "the software gives a full report to the professional that conforms to the regulations."

Infiltria doesn't show *where* a building is leaking, however, and that is the next step in the process of making a building airtight. If a building doesn't pass, then the diagnostic professional conducts smoke tests to identify leakage sites. "Once the leakage site is identified, the professional will seal it and run the airtightness tests again until all the leakage sites are identified," explains Mischler.

#### THE NATURAL CHOICE

Going with Java and JavaFX was a natural choice for dooApp's green building applications. Mischler says that when he and Dufour were working as Java developers, they real-

#### FAST FACT

**Buildings in the U.S. create 48 percent of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions.**



ized they wanted to apply their expertise to an area in which they both had a strong personal interest: green building.

"What we wanted to do was to bring our technical skills to develop innovative software for professionals in the green building sector," says Mischler. "What we had seen is that most software developers in this sector were engineers or architects

who had moved into software but lacked specific skills in software. And we thought that, as a result, the tools they had developed were not so innovative or user friendly."

Making the software interface user friendly was a high priority, so they chose JavaFX as Infiltrate's graphics and user interface framework, says Mischler. "We already had worked a bit with Adobe Flash, but we knew this was not well suited to design a professional desktop application because of performance and maintenance issues," Mischler explains. "Since [Microsoft] Silverlight is pretty much the same, we didn't look at it any closer."

"We both had experience with Swing, and when we started

developing Infiltrate we had the choice between Swing and JavaFX," continues Mischler. "Swing is the 'old' Java graphics framework. So Swing was a mature and stable technology but had some major drawbacks: you have to write a lot of code for small results, it's hard to style components, and the default look and feel looks a bit outdated."

On the other hand, he continues, JavaFX "was a new technology that addressed these issues and introduced tons of cool new features, such as special effects and animations, as well as CSS skinning."

The choice of JavaFX wasn't made without trepidation, however. "Since it

was a new technology, making the choice of JavaFX was somewhat of a gamble," Mischler concedes. "After considering both options, we made the choice to work with JavaFX and we do not regret this today. The technology is fun and is evolving in the right way." `</article>`

**Philip J. Gill** is a San Diego, California-based freelance writer and editor.

#### DUKE'S GREEN CHOICE

French startup **dooApp** is the winner of this year's **Duke's Choice Award for Innovative Green Technology**.

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**Rainer Schügerl, Director of Software Development and Security, SVC**

**Smartcard** system connects patients, providers, hospitals, and pharmacies throughout Europe. **BY DAVID BAUM**

Austria is well known for its advanced and generous social services—marked by excellent healthcare; a strong social security system; and an extensive network of hospitals, physicians, and pharmacies. Austrian Social Security Law, a public insurance system that includes 22 institutions offering a variety of insurance coverage and social programs, insures most Austrian citizens, and in recent years this national health system has been bolstered by one of the world's most advanced programs for smartcards and electronic health records.

## JAVA IN ACTION

JAVA TECH

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Today all insured citizens get a smartcard that verifies their insured status and facilitates the creation, transmission, and storage of electronic health records. The e-card system also authorizes citizens to avail themselves of a variety of e-health services, from preventive checkups to disease management programs. Thousands of healthcare providers have installed special equipment to scan the smartcards and transmit secure data across a secure health information network that spans the Austrian nation and extends to many other European countries within the scope of the NETC@RDS project of the European Union. Java is the *lingua franca* of the system.

"We chose Java because of the platform advantages, especially its tremendous portability among CPUs and hardware platforms," says Rainer Schügerl, director of software development and security at SVC, a public entity based in Vienna, Austria, that develops innovative solutions in the field of health telematics and e-government. SVC served as the systems integrator for the e-card project.

"Java provides a stable, high-quality programming language that suits all of our needs," Schügerl adds. "For enterprise-caliber development requiring high availability, reliability, and security, most Austrian organizations use Java."

insurance vouchers that had dominated Austria's medical world for 50 years. Manual processes between insured people, employers, doctors, hospitals, and the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions have been systematically replaced by electronic solutions and e-business procedures governing the transmission, storage, processing, and virtualization of health and administrative data.

The Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions is a group of statutory insurance providers that is responsible for the country's health, pension, and accident insurance. The association enlisted SVC to design and deploy the e-card system and an associated virtual private network. As a 100 percent subsidiary company of the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions, SVC has a proven track record of enforcing transparency and security in the processing of health and administrative data, whether for clinical use, administration, or science. Its mission is to improve the efficiency of information processes among patients, health service providers, and health administrators.

SVC has made a giant step forward in improving the quality of medical care for citizens throughout Austria and beyond. By implementing the e-card infrastructure, the agency replaced a cumbersome system of paper health

Schügerl has 40 software engineers on his team, including 20 Java developers. Due to the sensitive nature of health and medical information, the team needed a programming language with a robust security architecture. They decided to use Java Standard Edition for Embedded Devices, which supports the same platforms and functionality as Java Platform, Standard Edition (Java SE), along with additional capabilities for the embedded market such as support for small-footprint Java runtime environments (JREs), headless configurations, and memory optimizations. Java SE is ubiquitous on servers and desktop computers, thanks to its high-performance virtual machine and exceptional graphics support. To top it off, it has an extremely lightweight deployment architecture and a complete set of features and libraries for programmers.

Java applets are ideal for smartcards and similar small-memory devices because they carry all the essential security features such as cryptography, authentication, authorization, and public key infrastructure.

For SVC, these features ensure that new e-card applications can securely access centralized resources while protecting critical data from theft, loss, and corruption. The Java API supports a wide range of cryptographic services including digital signatures, message digests, ciphers, message authentication codes, key generators, and key factories, allowing

SVC developers to easily integrate security into their application code.

The smartcard does not contain software functions. Only the cardholder's administrative data is stored on the e-card—name,

**PERFECT FIT**  
Java applets  
carry essential  
security features  
and are **ideal for**  
**smartcards.**







## SMART CHOICE

SVC chose Java because of the platform advantages, especially its **tremendous portability** among CPUs and hardware platforms.

The e-card system has been designed to support a number of future projects, including electronic signatures for pharmaceutical prescriptions, emergency data, electronic vaccination records, and disease management programs. For example, a new e-medication system makes it easier for doctors and pharmacists to share information about potentially harmful interactions among medications.

Launched as a pilot project earlier this year in three regions of Austria, this service permits pharmacists, physicians, and hospitals to see a list of each patient's current medications. More than 100 physicians, about 50 pharmacies, and 6 hospitals participate in this project. The service will be fully implemented during 2012.

“Our research shows that people 70 years and older take up to 10 medications per day,” says Schügerl. “Tracking and comparing pharmaceutical prescriptions with health records helps them to reduce negative interactions. So far about 7,000 citizens have participated in this pilot program.” Within the scope of the pilot project, the participation of patients, physicians, pharmacists, and hospitals is voluntary.

After nationwide rollout of the e-medication system, citizens can “opt out” if they decide not to share their health information online—as some people prefer, due to privacy concerns. Because of the large number of involved stakeholders, it was not easy to balance the different interests and get the project running. But in general, both patients

and providers have embraced these existing and emerging e-health applications, partly as a result of the robust, Java-based security architecture. Data is not stored on the card; it is housed in a secure data center. Only authorized providers and administrators can access these records, and they must have special-purpose equipment.

## GLOBAL EXAMPLE

Following the slogan, "Move the data, not the patient," SVC's Java-based infrastructure has reduced the cost of healthcare administration, improved collaboration between healthcare professionals, and enabled higher-quality services for patients. Other Java applications communicate with the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions to submit medical claims, verify pharmaceutical prescriptions, route disability reports, and transmit medical records between appropriate medical practitioners.

The e-card infrastructure has become the foundation of many future applications in the burgeoning health telematics sector, including a new “citizen card” that streamlines e-government services related to tax declarations, alimony payments, student loans, criminal records, residence registration confirmations, insurance data, and pension accounts. Many other countries have expressed interest in developing similar Java-based systems, including Australia, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Finland,

## Stats on a Successful Rollout

SVC, a provider of health telematics and e-government solutions based in Vienna, Austria, has issued millions of e-cards to employed Austrian citizens, along with thousands of meters that rely on Java to securely store data.

E-cards (active) in Austria	8,700,000
New e-cards issued	850,000 per year
Healthcare providers connected	12,500
Pharmacies connected	120
Hospitals connected	136
Care facilities connected	15
E-card transactions completed	667,763, 920
Average contacts per day	Approximately 500,000
All-time high (December 14, 2009)	629,150

**Source:** SVC

Germany, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, and Vietnam.

Java is the de facto standard for these smartcard initiatives, with 5 billion installations worldwide. Many technically savvy organizations come to the same conclusion as SVC: they depend on Java because it is a powerful and secure environment for applications that run on smartcards and other devices with very limited memory and processing capabilities. **</article>**

Based in Santa Barbara, California, [David Baum](#) writes about innovative businesses, emerging technologies, and compelling lifestyles.





MICHAEL KÖLLING



# Starting Your First Computer Game

## Use Greenfoot to create your first interactive program.

In the Premiere issue of *Java Magazine*, I wrote an [article](#) about writing your first Java program using the [Greenfoot environment](#). In that article, we made a turtle walk across the screen, either in straight lines or in circles.

**Note:** If you haven't done so already, go to that [article](#) to find the software you need to install to follow this project.

Getting an animated graphic onscreen on your first day is pretty good, but it gets boring after a while if you can't do anything more with it. So today, I'll tell you how to add keyboard interaction (that is, how to control your

turtle's movement using keys), which might be a first step toward a little computer game.

## Jumping Right In

When we left our turtle's `act` method last time, it looked like this:

```
public void act()
{
    move(4);
    turn(2);
}
```

We observed that this caused the turtle to run in a circle, because the `act` method is repeatedly executed when the program runs (see **Figure 1**).

Now, we want each turtle to run straight forward when we do not press any keys on our keyboard and to turn right or left if we press the right or left arrow keys.

To achieve this, we need two things:

- We need to be able to check whether a key has been pressed.
- We need a statement in Java that lets us state that we want to turn only if the right or left arrow key has been pressed.

## Checking for Key Presses

Greenfoot has a method, called `isKeyDown`, that lets us check whether a given key on the keyboard is being held down. This method is in the `Greenfoot` class. We can, for instance, write the following to check whether the left arrow key is being pressed:

```
Greenfoot.isKeyDown("left")
```

The parameter (inside the parentheses) is the name of the key we want to check. The alphabetical keys have their character as their name (for instance, the A key is called **a**, the B key is called **b**, and so on). The special control keys have names indicating what they are; for example, **left** is the

## ARROW CONTROL

You can now **control** a turtle on your screen with your **arrow keys**. Pretty good fun already!

name of the left arrow key and—you guessed it—**right** is the name of the right arrow key.

The `isKeyDown` method, when called, will answer with a value of either `true` (yes, the left arrow key is being pressed) or `false` (no, the key is not being pressed).

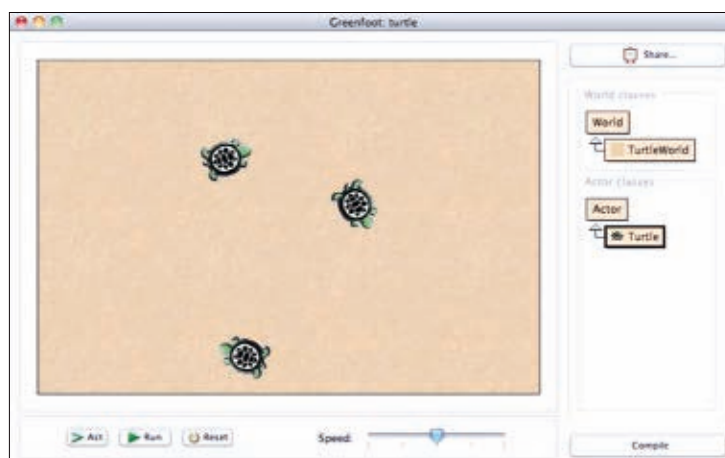
## An if Statement

The second part we need to make our plan work is a statement that lets us execute an action (in our case, turning) only under certain conditions (when the left or right arrow key is pressed). This is called an **if** statement.

An **if** statement has the following general form:

```
if (condition) {
    statements;
}
```

When an **if** statement is executed, it checks the condition, and then it executes the statements between the curly brackets only




### Figure 1



If the condition is false, the body is just ignored, and execution continues after the **if** statement.

With these two bits together, we can now do what we need to do. We need to write the following:

This is not real Java code (it's pseudocode). We can now fill in the pseudocode with real Java code:



### Figure 2

Doing the same for the right arrow key to turn right is now simple. We just write a similar statement again, this time turning 3 degrees for the right arrow key. The complete new `act` method is shown in **Listing 1**.

Try it out. Compile your classes, place a turtle into the world, and run the scenario.

You can now control a turtle on your screen with your arrow keys. Pretty good fun already!

Currently, the turtle will continuously walk forward. If you want to, you can change your code so that the turtle moves forward only when you press the up arrow. You do that by adding another `if` statement around the `move(4)` statement. The name of the up arrow key is `up`.

Next, we want to give the turtle something to do: collect some food and eat it. To do this, we need some new objects in our world: pizza slices. (Yes, our turtle eats pizza. This is not a biology lesson—it's a computer game.)

Where do objects come from? From a class. So first, we need to create a new `Pizza` class.

Right-click the **Actor** class (see **Figure 2**) and select the **New subclass** function. In the resulting dialog box, enter **Pizza** as the class name, and search

## LISTING 2

 [See all listings as text](#)

for the image of the pizza slice in the **food** category. Click **OK**.

As soon as the classes are compiled again, you can add a few pizza slices (as well as a turtle) to your world.

Try it out. Let your turtle run around to collect pizza. You will notice, though, that the turtle does not (yet) eat the pizza. It will just run straight across the pizza. We will fix that shortly.

If you worked along and experimented in Greenfoot for a bit, you will have noticed that you need to re-create all objects in the world after every compilation. This can get a little tedious after awhile, especially if we have many objects.

Here are two quick tips to make your life in Greenfoot a bit easier.

- You can shift-click into the world. This is a shortcut

to create an object of the class that is currently selected in the class diagram on the right.

- When all your objects are in the world as you want them to be at the start of your game, you can right-click the world background and select **Save the World** to save this world state. This state will then be re-created automatically after every compile or reset.

OK, we have pizza. We have a turtle. The turtle is hungry.

The last bit to do for today is to make the turtle notice when it runs into some

pizza and to make the turtle eat the pizza. For this we need what's called *collision detection* to detect when we've run into a pizza slice.

The full code to do this is in **Listing 2**. This code should be added to the end of the

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**isKeyDown** lets  
us check whether  
a given key is being  
held down.









## Handle the JSON response format with an HTML5 Web client.

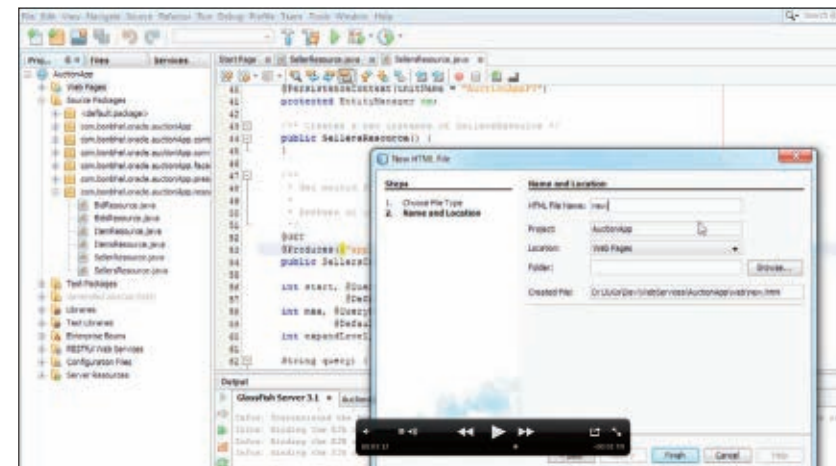
**Note:** The complete source code for the application designed in this article can be downloaded [here](#).

HTML5 is designed to be cross-platform, and it does not require a specific operating system. The only thing we need is a modern Web browser, such as the latest

HTML5 provides **very cool functionalities** for **storing** the data in your browser and **accessing** the data with JavaScript after the page is loaded.

To begin, we will modify the resources to ensure that the server returns a response in the format


- b.** Remove the XML MIME type (`application/xml`) from the `@Produces` annotation of the method `get()`. The class



See how to use JavaScript Object Notation with HTML5 to store, retrieve, and display information.

LISTING 1 / LISTING 2 / LISTING 3 / LISTING 4 / LISTING 5 / LISTING 6

- ```
@Path("/sellers/")
@Stateless
public class SellersResource {
    @javax.ejb.EJB
    private SellerResource sellerResource;
    @Context
    ....
    @GET
    @Produces({"application/json"})
    public SellersConverter get(@QueryParam("start")
                               @DefaultValue("0")
    ...
}
```

 [See all listings as text](#)

In Part 3 of this series, we will focus on the integration of Java API for XML Web Services (JAX-WS) technology for "big" Web services. **</article>**

**LEARN MORE**

- [Roy T. Fielding's dissertation defining the REST architectural style](#)
- [\*HTML5: Up and Running\*, by Mark Pilgrim \(O'Reilly Media, 2010\)](#)

- ## Testing the HTML Client Application
1. Call the Web services for seller #2:
    - a. Open your browser and type the re-



# Agile ALM for Java Developers

## Agile ALM makes for better-quality software and happier Java developers.

MICHAEL HÜTTERMANN



**A**gile application lifecycle management (ALM) is a way for Java developers, testers, release managers, technical project managers, and decision-makers to integrate flexible agile practices and lightweight tooling into software development phases.

Agile ALM synthesizes technical and functional elements to provide a comprehensive approach to common project activities and phases, addressing test, release, integration, build, requirements, change, and configuration management. (See **Figure 1**.)

With its interdisciplinary approach, agile ALM integrates project roles, project phases, and artifact types. Agile ALM enriches an ALM approach with agile values and strategies. An agile approach to ALM improves product quality, reduces time to market, and makes for happier developers.

In a nutshell, agile ALM

- Helps overcome process, technology, and functional barriers (such as roles and organizational units)
- Spans all artifact types as well as development phases and

## project roles

- Uses and integrates light-weight tools, enabling the team to collaborate efficiently without any silos
- Makes the relationship of given or generated artifacts visible, providing traceability and reproducibility
- Defines task-based activities that are aligned with requirements, which means the activities are linked to requirements and all changes are traceable to their requirements

As a result, from a Java developer perspective, agile ALM helps developers focus on doing their jobs rather than wasting time with barriers or obstacles that reduce productivity. Streamlining Java development with agile ALM fosters collaboration among coworkers, leading to improved software quality and better results.

Agile ALM provides processes and tool chains that are flexible and open to change. This is one of the ways in which ALM provides structure for agile software development. Some underlying aspects of agile ALM are not completely

new, and developers should respect the struggles of previous decades, and put results together to get the best solution. In my view, ALM evolved from software configuration management (SCM), which in turn has its roots in basic version control.

Following are some major agile ALM building blocks that address and leverage widespread activities among Java developers.

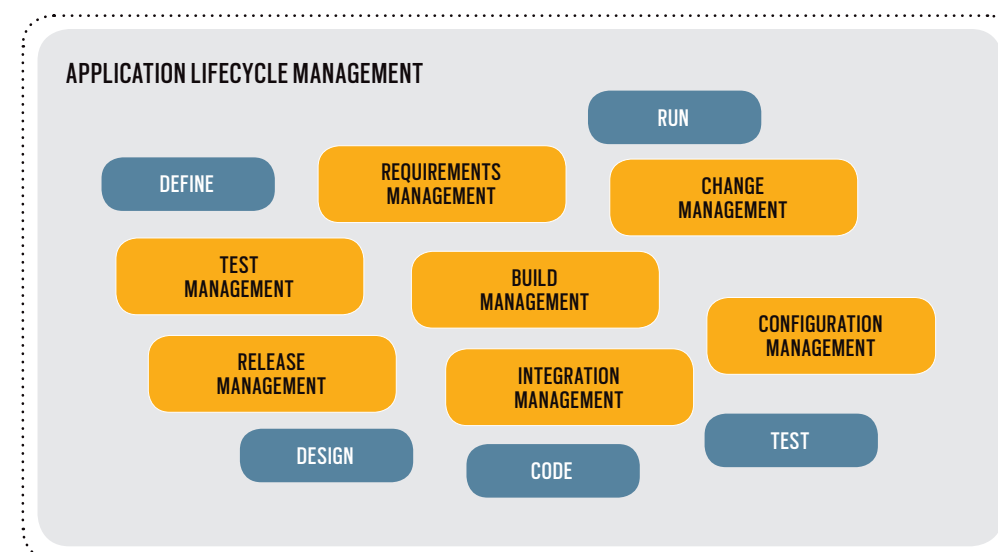
## Release Management

*Release management* involves producing software artifacts and releasing them according to a

defined process. Release management can be differentiated into a functional part and a technical part. To deliver software successfully, both parts are important and should be integrated with each other. Automation and continuous integration are crucial facets of the software release and delivery process.

## Functional release management.

*Functional release management* involves identifying the customer's requirements, assigning them to releases, and delivering the functionality to the customer with high quality. Agile practices



### Figure 1

are often used to support this process, and many projects achieve good results from using the management template known as Scrum.

While defining a thin set of rules, Scrum fosters discipline and makes defects (in software as well as in the process) visible. But Scrum is too abstract to be applied “out of the book.” You must implement and adopt it for software engineering. Implementation practices, for instance, might include distinguishing between special development phases, on a micro level, inside a Scrum release. Here are some examples:

- Opening the release with an interval to write acceptance tests
- Opening the release with an interval to get more-detailed requirements
- Closing the release with a frozen zone that allows developers to work only on bug fixes, not on new features

- Closing the release with a code-freeze interval in order to complete and ship the final release

## Technical release management.

Technical releasing consists of building the software and providing the final product to the customer. Build management (comprised of compiling scripts, packaging components, and distributing components) is essential for agile ALM.

*Technical release management* includes activities to identify configuration items, track and audit changes to requirements and configuration items, and integrate and deliver the implementation. In software engineering, change is more the rule than the exception. Because requirements change, it is important to keep the requirements in sync with their implementations. Possible gaps between functional and technical release management should

be bridged. Strategies such as version control system (VCS) hooks help marry both parts of release management. A leading tool that supports technical release management is Maven. With Maven, the dependencies between your Java artifacts become visible.

## Automation and Continuous Integration

Automating manual steps involves delivering results in an objective and reproducible way. Automating the most error-prone, repetitive, and

time-consuming activities is essential.

*Continuous integration* (CI) refers to the automation of the build, test, and release process with the goal of integrating the activities of colleagues and the work items others produce. This can result in a build ecosystem in which a new-code commit directly triggers a continuous build, including compilation, technical tests, audits, packaging, functional tests, and deployment.

All different artifact types, platforms, and languages (for example, Java, Groovy, Scala, PHP, COBOL, and others) should be integrated using a unified tool infrastructure. If no native build system exists for a respective language or platform, non-native build technologies can be used to include these artifact types in the CI farm.

One tool that can serve as your central tool hub is the build engine Hudson. Integrating Hudson with the tool Mylyn results in a tool chain that spans different project roles and activities. Then, the work on artifacts is traceable, starting with the source code in the developers' workspaces on up to tasks (work items) in your ticket system.

Using a component repository such as Nexus helps to differentiate between source code and Java binaries, and the repository operates on binaries separately—for example, through staging binaries from one test environment to another environment.

## FLEXIBLE STRUCTURE

Agile ALM provides **processes and tool chains** that are flexible and open to change.

## Collaborative Development

Writing software collaboratively means that all stakeholders, especially Java developers and testers, work on the solution constructively and with shared goals. The agile testing matrix (see **Figure 2**) defines test quadrants, which are integrated and aligned using the

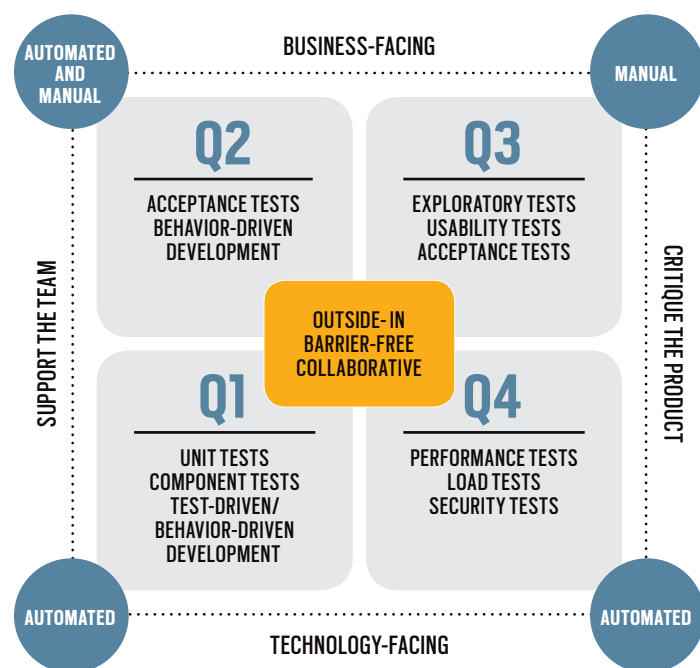
*outside-in* and *barrier-free* approach to software development.

The main drivers of the outside-in approach are

- Understanding your stakeholders and the business context
- Mapping project expectations onto outcomes more effectively
- Building more-consumable software, making systems easier to deploy and use
- Enhancing alignment with stakeholder goals continuously

Acceptance tests determine whether a system satisfies its specified acceptance criteria, which helps customers decide whether to accept the software. This means that acceptance tests also tell the programmers what the customer doesn't want them to do.

*Executable specifications* allow you to use tools that read the specifications automatically (either after manually starting the process or continuously as part of a CI process); process them against the system under test; and output the results in an objectively measurable, efficient, and readable way. The domain expert specifies the tests in simple



### Figure 2



formats (for example, based on HTML or Microsoft Excel), and the program writes the results after running the tests against the system under test.

Describing requirements in an executable way fosters the barrier-free approach. Merging different documentation mediums (single-sourcing product information) reduces the amount of traditional documentation, because the specification is the system's functional documentation and, therefore, can be efficiently validated against the current software state. This leads to living documentation that is always up to date.

### Behavior-Driven Development

*Behavior-driven development* (BDD) promotes a special approach to writing and applying acceptance tests that is different from the traditional *test-driven development* (TDD), although BDD also promotes writing tests first.

With BDD, tests are like functional specification stories, normally in a "given/when/then" format. This specification-oriented technique also

uses a natural language to ensure cross-functional communication and to ensure that business concepts are understood. BDD provides a *ubiquitous language* for analysis and emphasizes application behavior over testing.

You can use dedicated, lightweight

tools to write acceptance tests, or you can use specialized languages. [Scala](#) and [Groovy](#), both first-class citizens on the Java Virtual Machine (JVM), offer interesting features for setting up a polyglot ecosystem and leveraging existing platforms by providing solutions that involve special-purpose languages. With Scala and Groovy, you can write tests, which helps to overcome

- Barriers between project phases and project activities (because coding and testing move together more closely)
- Barriers between artifact types (because code and executable specifications are written on the same unified infrastructure)
- Barriers between project roles (because tests are written collaboratively, with mechanisms to use terms close to the problem domain)
- Barriers between tools (because the same tools are used for programming and testing)

Overcoming common project barriers leads to what I call a *barrier-free* approach. The example shown in **Listing 1** gives you an impression of what it can look like to write BDD-flavored acceptance tests with Scala and the [Scala specs2](#) library.

The code in **Listing 1** integrates the Web application test system, [Selenium2](#), to smoke test the HotBot Web search.

The defined `is` method lists specification fragments that can be simple text (a description of the target system) or an example (including executable code that returns a result). Fragments are separated and linked by the `^` character.

#### LISTING 1

```
package alm

import org.specs2._
import matcher.ThrownExpectations
import specification.Step
import Thread._
import org.openqa.selenium.WebDriverBackedSelenium

class Selenium2 extends Specification with ThrownExpectations {

  lazy val selenium = new WebDriverBackedSelenium(new org.openqa.selenium.
    firefox.FirefoxDriver(), "http://www.hotbot.com/")

  def is =
    sequential
      "This specification smoke tests HotBot search"
      Step(() => selenium)
      "Enter search token and check the title of the SERP"
      Step(selenium.stop())
    end

  def acc = {
    import selenium._
    open("/")
    `type`("search-Input", "Agile ALM")
    click("search-Submit")
    getTitle() must startWith("Agile ALM")
  }
}
```



[See listing as text](#)

### Summary

Agile ALM provides more structure for agile software development and helps you approach ALM in a determined, pragmatic way. Using an agile approach to ALM can increase productivity and enhance results. Streamlining Java development with agile ALM integrates various practices (such as continuous integration and writing acceptance tests collaboratively),

languages, and tools to improve software development practices. [</article>](#)

### LEARN MORE

- [Agile ALM](#) (Manning Publications, 2011)
- [A Guide to Software Configuration Management](#) (Artech House, 2000)
- [Configuration Management Principles and Practice](#) (Addison-Wesley, 2003)

#### AGILE BENEFITS

Agile ALM improves product **quality**, reduces **time** to market, and makes for **happier developers**.



Use the Hudson Plug-in Interface tool to create, build, run, and debug custom plug-ins that extend Hudson to meet the specific needs of your projects.

- **pom.xml**: The Maven Project Object Model (POM) file, which is used to build the plug-in
- **src/main/java**: The folder that contains the Java source files for the plug-in
- **src/main/resources**: The folder that contains the Jelly UI

Hudson's popularity is due to its **extensible nature.**

First, we'll look at how to create a Hudson plug-in using the HPI tool, create and run a project for the plug-in, and view the plug-in in action on the Hudson test server.



[illegible]









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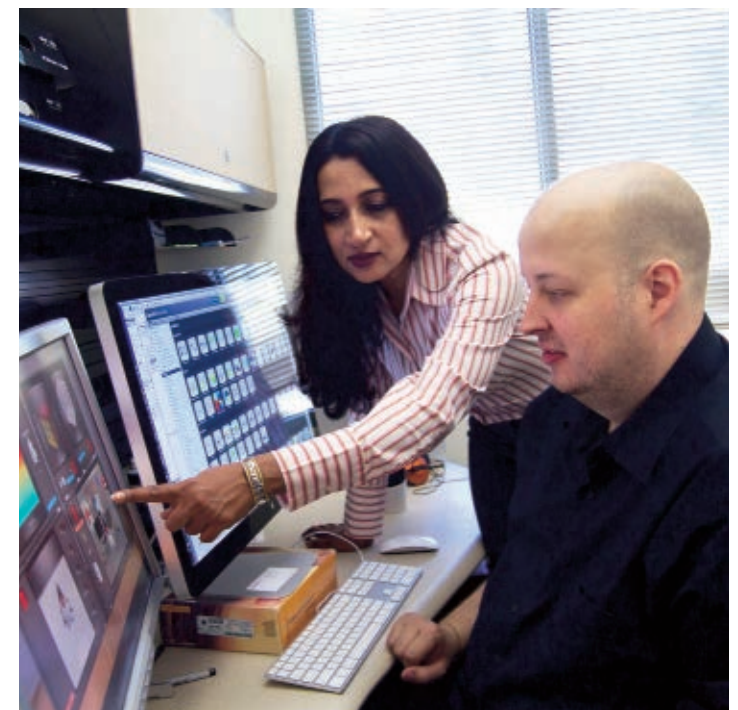


## JavaFX 2.0

# Shock the Senses

Oracle's **Nandini Ramani** talks with *Java Magazine* about the key features of JavaFX 2.0. **BY MICHAEL MELOAN**

**J**avaFX 2.0 is Oracle's premier development environment for rich client applications. Designed to leverage Java's APIs and cross-platform flexibility, JavaFX 2.0 provides state-of-the-art solutions for creating optimal UIs. Nandini Ramani, vice president of Java client development at Oracle, discusses how this new Java technology will help developers to build advanced systems.



**Java Magazine:** What are the goals for JavaFX 2.0? And what advantages does it offer system architects and developers?

**Ramani:** JavaFX 2.0 is a major modernization for client-side developers. At the top of the stack, we have more than 6,500 new APIs for building graphically rich, compelling user interfaces. These APIs

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB ADLER  
ART BY PAULINA MCFARLAND





include everything from the ability to play audio and video, to user interface controls and layout containers, to a scene graph and animation libraries, to observable collections and UI binding. At the bottom of the stack, we have a new windowing library and hardware accelerated graphics library.

The industry is moving toward multicore multithreading platforms with GPUs [graphics processing units], and JavaFX 2.0 leverages these attributes to improve execution efficiency and UI design flexibility. Our initial goal is to give architects and developers of enterprise applications a set of tools to help them build better business applications, dashboards, richly animated UIs, and mashups that integrate different Web-based datasources.

JavaFX 2.0 can be run standalone, in the browser, or using Java Web Start. Will you describe application areas best suited to each of these options?

downloading from a central Web location, and it handles updates automatically.

**Java Magazine:** What strengths does JavaFX 2.0 offer over Adobe Flash or Microsoft Silverlight?

**Ramani:** First and foremost, JavaFX 2.0 is built on top of the Java platform, so it reflects all the years of rigorous development, testing, and cross-platform capability that Java brings to the table. It's hosted on the efficient and widely available Java Virtual Machine. Many users of JavaFX 2.0 will already be using Java EE for back-end processing, so JavaFX on the front end allows them to utilize existing skill sets, tooling, and infrastructure. Everything they apply to back-end development becomes applicable on the front end. In addition, Java has the largest and strongest





NANDINI RAMANI  
VP, DEVELOPMENT, JAVA CLIENT PLATFORM



Watch *Introducing JavaFX 2.0*

ecosystem in terms of third-party libraries around. Being able to leverage that kind of support for developing client applications is a big plus.

**Java Magazine:** Can languages like JRuby, Scala, and Groovy interoperate with JavaFX 2.0?

**Ramani:** Absolutely. Just as you can run any of these languages on top of the Java platform, they also all interoperate with JavaFX 2.0. In fact, there's a project in the Groovy community called GroovyFX, which uses the Builder design pattern for JavaFX applications. Most of this work is being done open source, and many of the language implementers are excited about using JavaFX 2.0 technology. For some Java developers, dynamic scripting languages are a vital part of their toolkit, and JavaFX can seamlessly work with them.

Because JavaFX uses familiar design patterns, such as POJOs following the JavaBeans naming conventions, many of these languages already have enhanced support for JavaFX right out of the gate. In addition, JavaFX was carefully designed with consistent API idioms, such as event handling, which make it easy for other languages to provide syntactic sugar for these APIs.

**Java Magazine:** Will you describe an application scenario where Prism, the hardware accelerated graphics pipeline, and the new Glass windowing toolkit might offer tangible advantages?

**Ramani:** Prism handles rasterization and rendering of JavaFX scenes. It can execute on both hardware and software renderers. The Glass windowing toolkit is the lowest-level framework for the JavaFX 2.0 graphics stack—it manages timers, surfaces, and windows.

When developers need gradients and

shading, or any sort of advanced graphics, hardware acceleration can offer a huge payoff in system responsiveness. And when applications need to build tables and display large data sets, Prism can also be valuable. The Prism/Glass combination eliminates the need to instantiate and load Swing and AWT classes, which gives JavaFX 2.0 a definite performance advantage.

**Java Magazine:** How will FXML, the JavaFX 2.0 XML-based markup language, add value for developers? And will you describe how Scene Builder will be useful for generating FXML?

**Ramani:** The fact that FXML is XML-based is a huge advantage from a tools perspective, because Java IDEs such as NetBeans and Eclipse interoperate easily with XML. Layout design for enterprise applications is one of the trickiest and most-labor-intensive endeavors. The visual JavaFX Scene Builder tool mitigates the need for hand coding, which is a definite productivity bonus. Also, FXML ties into JavaFX Scene Builder in two ways: developers can either programmatically make changes and then generate FXML, or they can use JavaFX Scene Builder to design the JavaFX UI components and then save them as FXML markup. JavaScript can also be seamlessly integrated into this scenario. So there's a great deal of flexibility. These tools also allow the use of CSS. Once an application is created, a completely new visual look can be generated without recompilation by changing either the style sheet or the FXML code. This is an industry trend, and JavaFX 2.0 provides the toolset.

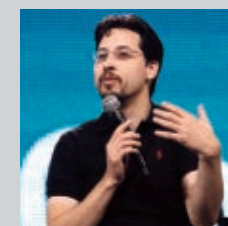
**Java Magazine:** Is HTML5 part of the JavaFX 2.0 landscape?

**Ramani:** HTML5 technologies are still under development by the W3C. But support for HTML5, as defined today, is built into JavaFX 2.0. Our Web component is based on WebKit, which supports HTML5. Many developers are already using WebKit-based browsers. Possible future developments, like offline storage, Web SQL databases, native drag-and-drop, and geolocation, will be of interest as they evolve. We plan to stay in sync with HTML5.

**Java Magazine:** How do the JavaFX UI control libraries fit into the JavaFX 2.0 toolset?

**Ramani:** I was a longtime Swing developer myself, and I love its capabilities—a great way to program. But every component in Swing tends toward rectangular forms. Today, we need more flexibility. JavaFX 2.0 UI controls offer the ability to create rounded shapes, a much wider range of components, and

#### COMMUNITY COMMENT



“Making JavaFX open source is a huge step in the right direction for this technology. It will enable businesses to use JavaFX with no fear about vendor lockin, and let the community participate and grow the platform in new and innovative ways. I have been advocating for this move since the 1.0 release, and am glad that Oracle listened to the community and made this possible.”

—Stephen Chin, a technical expert in RIA technologies and chief agile methodologist at GXS

PHOTOGRAPH BY HARTMANN STUDIOS





**Nandini Ramani and members of the JavaFX 2.0 team discuss the product's roadmap.**

skinning via CSS. This new set of powerful components will allow any developer to build advanced enterprise application interfaces. Also, the JavaFX UI controls will be the first component of JavaFX to be open sourced as an OpenJDK project. This will enable developers to build their own custom versions of components, which the Swing community has been doing for many years.

**Java Magazine:** Can JavaFX 2.0 code be easily integrated into existing Swing applications?

**Ramani:** Yes, Swing and JavaFX cooperate well. Within existing Swing applications, you can either add on or embed JavaFX. All Swing capabilities are retained, but the portions rendered with JavaFX leverage all the new capabilities. For instance, if you want to embed a Web browser into your Swing application, you can do so by embedding the JavaFX WebView. Another option is to rewrite some of the Swing code for JavaFX. It's a great migration path for existing Swing applications.



## LEAPS AND BOUNDS

JavaFX 2.0 is a **leap forward**. Developers can seamlessly **mix and match** Web and media content within their Java applications.

interface that the lambda proposal for Java SE 8 requires.

But we don't have to look to the future for something exciting. JavaFX 2.0 is a leap forward. It offers developers the ability to seamlessly mix and match Web and media content within their Java applications using a variety of powerful coding and layout options, which can be running inside a browser or as standalone applications. We believe that a broad range of enterprise applications will benefit from this multifaceted new technology.

**Java Magazine:** What role will open source play in JavaFX's future?

**Ramani:** At JavaOne, we announced our intention to submit a proposal to open source the JavaFX platform as a new OpenJDK project. We plan to initially contribute the JavaFX UI controls and related libraries; other JavaFX components will follow in multiple phases. By the time you read this article, we are confident that the OpenJDK community will have approved this proposal. You can check the status of the JavaFX project on the OpenJDK site. [</article>](#)

**Michael Meloan** began his professional career writing IBM mainframe and DEC PDP-11 assembly languages. He went on to code in PL/I, APL, C, and Java. In addition, his fiction has appeared in *WIRED*, *BUZZ*, *Chic*, *LA Weekly*, and on National Public Radio. He is also a Huffington Post blogger.

**LEARN MORE**

- [JavaFX home page](#)
- [JavaFX 2.0 downloads](#)
- [FX Experience](#)
- Overview of JavaFX





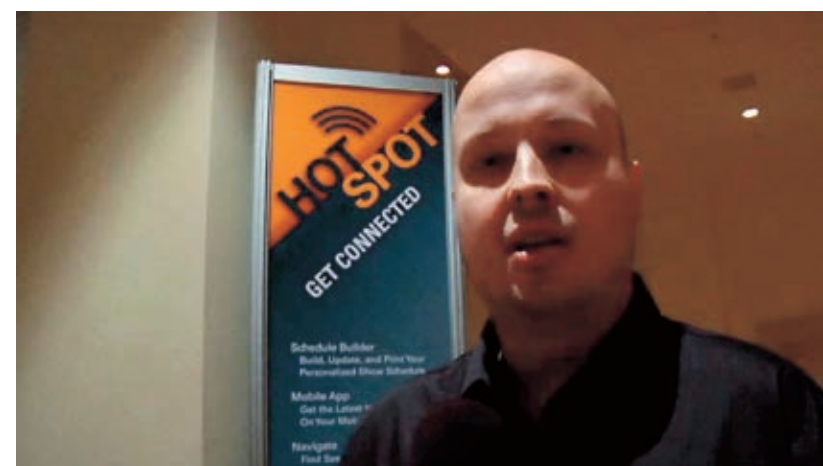
## Use the power of JavaFX 2.0 to migrate Swing interfaces to JavaFX.

This is the first in a series of articles that will show how to modify an existing Swing-based application so that the interface can be migrated from Swing to JavaFX. This series will show how parts of the application can be replaced gradually with JavaFX to improve the appearance and usability of

To demonstrate the power of JavaFX, we'll use a relatively simple Swing application that has enough complexity in its components but can be easily understood and modified. The first ap-

Thankfully, most of the hard work is taken care of by the JavaFX platform. Included in the JavaFX API is the `JFXPanel` class. The name is a little misleading, because this class extends the Swing `JComponent` class rather than the Abstract Windows Toolkit (AWT) `Panel` class. As such, we can use this easily in a Swing application, but we can't use it in a pure AWT application.

**WHAT'S NEXT**  
JavaFX 2.0  
represents the  
**next step in the**  
**evolution** of Java  
as a premier rich  
client platform.



 Jasper Potts, the developer experience architect for Java client, talks about the JavaFX 2.0 release.







JAMES L. WEAVER



# Using Transitions for Animation in JavaFX 2.0

Animate the nodes in your scene the easy way.

JavaFX 2.0 is an API and runtime for creating rich internet applications (RIAs). JavaFX was introduced in 2007, and version 2.0 was released in October 2011. One of the advantages of JavaFX 2.0 is that the code may be written in the Java language, using mature and familiar tools. This article focuses on using JavaFX 2.0 *transitions* to animate visual nodes in the UI.

JavaFX comes with its own transition classes, shown in **Figure 1**, whose purpose is to provide convenient ways to do

commonly used animation tasks. These classes are located in the [javafx.animation](#) package. This article contains an example of using the [TranslateTransition](#) class to animate a node, moving it back and forth between two positions in the UI.

### Overview

To help you learn how to use the [TranslateTransition](#) class, an example named [TransitionExampleX](#) will be employed. As shown in **Figure 2**, this example contains a couple of buttons, a couple of

rectangles, and a circle that you'll animate a little later.

The [TransitionExample](#) project that you'll download in the next section contains starter code for this example, and it has an appearance at runtime similar to **Figure 2**. During the course of this article, you'll modify the code to implement the animated behavior of the [TransitionExampleX](#) project, which is also available in the download.

When you click the Play button, the text on the button changes to "Pause," as shown in **Figure 3**, and the ball moves back and forth between the paddles indefinitely.

Clicking the Pause button causes the animation to pause and the text on the button to change to "Play."

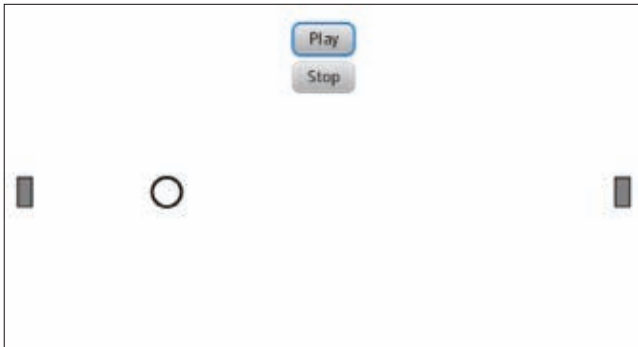


Figure 2



Figure 3

| Class                                | Description                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">TranslateTransition</a>  | Translates (moves) a node from one location to another                      |
| <a href="#">RotateTransition</a>     | Rotates a node                                                              |
| <a href="#">ScaleTransition</a>      | Scales (increases or decreases the size of) a node                          |
| <a href="#">FadeTransition</a>       | Fades (increases or decreases the opacity of) a node                        |
| <a href="#">PathTransition</a>       | Moves a node along a geometric path                                         |
| <a href="#">SequentialTransition</a> | Allows you to define a sequential series of transitions                     |
| <a href="#">PauseTransition</a>      | Used in a <a href="#">SequentialTransition</a> to wait for a period of time |
| <a href="#">ParallelTransition</a>   | Allows you to define a parallel series of transitions                       |

Figure 1

### Obtaining and Running the TransitionExample Example

1. Download the [NetBeans project](#) that includes the [TransitionExample](#) program.
2. Expand the project into a directory of your choice.
3. Start NetBeans, and select **File -> Open Project**.

This is an update to an [article](#) that was originally published on Oracle Technology Network (July 2011).

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
STEVE GRUBMAN

4. From the Open Project dialog box, navigate to your chosen directory and open the **TransitionExample** project, as shown in **Figure 4**. If you receive a message dialog stating that the **jfxrt.jar** file can't be found, click the **Resolve** button and navigate to the **rt/lib** folder subordinate to where you installed the JavaFX 2.0 SDK.

**Note:** You can obtain the NetBeans IDE from the [NetBeans site](#).

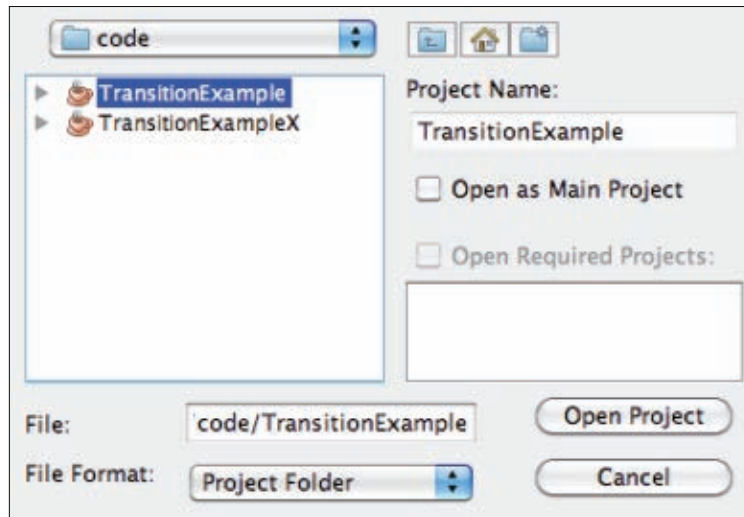


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

5. To run the application, click the **Run Project** icon on the toolbar, or press the F6 key. The **Run Project** icon has the appearance of the Play button on a DVD player, as shown in **Figure 5**.

The **TransitionExample** application should appear in a window, as shown in **Figure 6**.

You'll notice that clicking the Play and Stop buttons has no effect. Your mission will be to add code that implements the behavior described previously. Here are steps you can follow to implement this behavior:

### Step 1: Create a TranslateTransition Instance to Animate the Node

To cause the ball to move (also known as *translate*) between two different positions in the scene, we'll create an instance of the **TranslateTransition** class.

Take a look at the code in the **TransitionExampleMain.java** file in the **TransitionExample** project, which shows the starter code for this example.

### Using the TranslateTransitionBuilder class to build TranslateTransition.

The starter code in **TransitionExampleMain.java** makes use of *builder* classes in the JavaFX 2.0 API, in-

### LISTING 1 LISTING 2 LISTING 3 LISTING 4

```
transition = TranslateTransitionBuilder.create()
// TO DO: Insert code to set the duration to 1500 milliseconds

.node(ball)
// TO DO: Insert code to set the fromX property to 0

// TO DO: Insert code to set the toX property to 440

.interpolator(Interpolator.LINEAR)
// TO DO: Insert code to set the autoReverse property to true

.cycleCount(Animation.INDEFINITE)
.build();
```

[See all listings as text](#)

cluding the **TranslateTransitionBuilder** class shown in **Listing 1**.

Go ahead and fill in the lines indicated by the "TO DO" comments, so the code in **Listing 1** turns into the code shown in **Listing 2**.

There are many builder classes in the JavaFX API, and their purpose is to enable a declarative style of programming to create and set the properties of objects. For example, the code you completed in **Listing 2** creates an instance of the **TranslateTransition** class, and it populates that instance with properties such as the duration of the animation and the node in the scene graph being animated. As you can see in **TransitionExampleMain.java**, other builder classes used in this application include **ButtonBuilder**, **CircleBuilder**,

**RectangleBuilder**, **SceneBuilder**, and **VBoxBuilder**.

### Step 2: Define an Event Handler in the Play Button

To make the **TranslateTransition** start, pause, and stop, you'll define event handlers in the buttons that call the appropriate methods on the **TranslateTransition** object. For example, the starter code in **Listing 3** from **TransitionExampleMain.java** contains the builder that creates a **Button** instance for the Play button.

As you did before, fill in the lines indicated by the "TO DO" comments, turning the code shown in **Listing 3** into the code shown in **Listing 4**.

**Using methods of the Animation class to control the animation.** All the transition classes in **Figure 1** are subclasses of the



# JAVA POWER

One of the **advantages of JavaFX 2.0** is that the code may be written in the Java language, using mature and familiar tools.

## Using binding to keep properties updated.

Property binding is a very convenient and powerful feature of the JavaFX API, because it enables you to keep the values of properties automatically updated. The excerpts from **Listing 1** that are shown in

**Listing 5** bind the `textProperty` of the `playButton` to a `StringProperty` that holds the text to be displayed in the button.

As the value of `playButtonText` is updated by the event handler that you coded, the text on the button displays the updated value.

There is another use of property binding in `TransitionExampleMain.java`, which is shown in **Listing 6** and demonstrates how to bind expressions.

To keep the `buttonsContainer` node horizontally centered in the application window, the `layoutXProperty` of one of the nodes in the scene graph is bound

**Note:** The excerpt in **Listing 6** is for demonstration purposes only, because the use of layout containers (in the `javafx.scene.layout` package) is the preferred approach for dynamically positioning nodes within a scene.

### Step 3: Define an Event Handler in the Stop Button

To finish the `TransitionExample`, you'll need to enter some code into the starter code from `TransitionExampleMain.java` shown in **Listing 7**.

The completed code for the Stop button event handler is very similar to what you've already coded in the Play button event handler. Go ahead and fill in the code shown in **Listing 8**, and run the example.

## Conclusion

JavaFX 2.0 comes with several transition classes that extend the [Transition](#) class, whose purpose is to animate visual nodes in your application. JavaFX also contains many builder classes that provide the ability to express a UI in a declarative style. Plus, JavaFX has a powerful property binding capability in which properties may be bound to expressions to automatically keep them updated. [.</article>](#)

**LEARN MORE**

- [JavaFX Technology at a Glance](#)
- [JavaFX Documentation](#)

## LISTING 5

## LISTING 6

## LISTING 7

## LISTING 8

```
String playText = "Play";
...
StringProperty playButtonText =
    new SimpleStringProperty(playText);
...
playButton.textProperty()
    .bind(playButtonText);
```

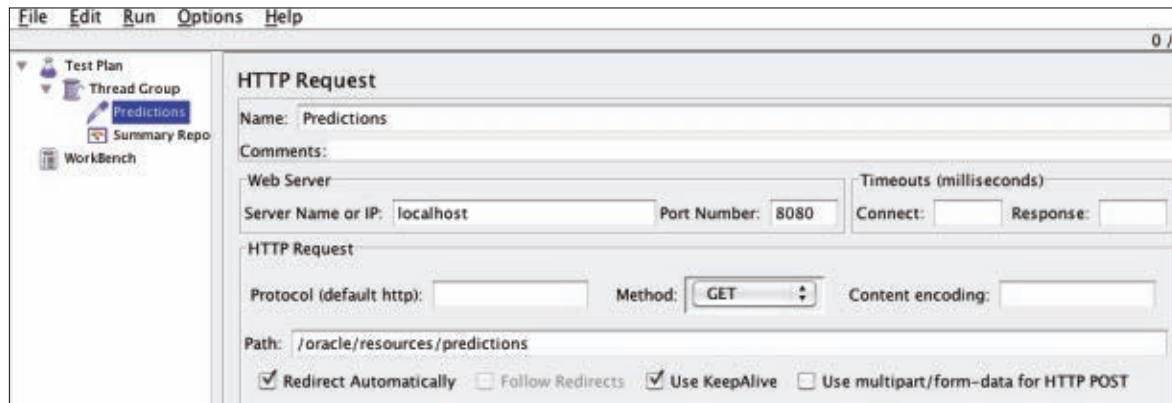


See all listings as text

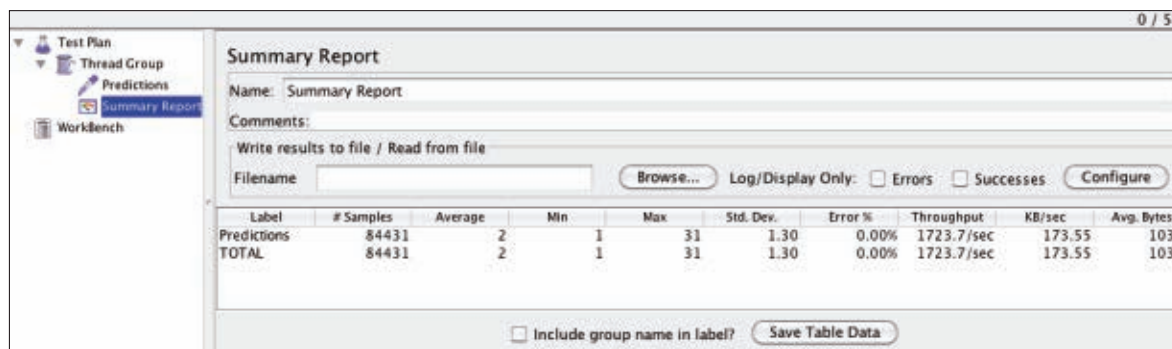








### Figure 1



### Figure 2

The open source load testing tool Apache JMeter comes with built-in HTTP support. After creating the **ThreadGroup** and setting the number of threads (and, thus, concurrent users), an HTTP request has to be configured to execute the GET requests (right-click, select **Sampler**, and then select **HTTP Request**). See **Figure 1**.

While the results can be visualized in various ways, the JMeter Summary Report is a good start (see **Figure 2**). It turns out that the sample application is able to handle 1,700 transactions per second for five concurrent users out of the box.

Every request is a true transaction  
and is processed by an Enterprise

JavaBeans 3.1 (EJB 3.1) JAX-RS  
[PredictionArchiveResource](#), delegated to  
the [PredictionAudit](#) EJB 3.1 bean, which  
in turn accesses the database through  
[EntityManager](#) (with exactly one record).

At this point, we have learned only that with EJB 3.1, JPA 2, and JAX-RS, we can achieve 1,700 transactions per second without any optimization. But we still have no idea what is happening under the hood.

## VisualVM Turns Night to Day

GlassFish Server Open Source Edition 3.1.x and Java DB (the open source version of Apache Derby) are Java processes that can be easily monitored with VisualVM. Although VisualVM is shipped

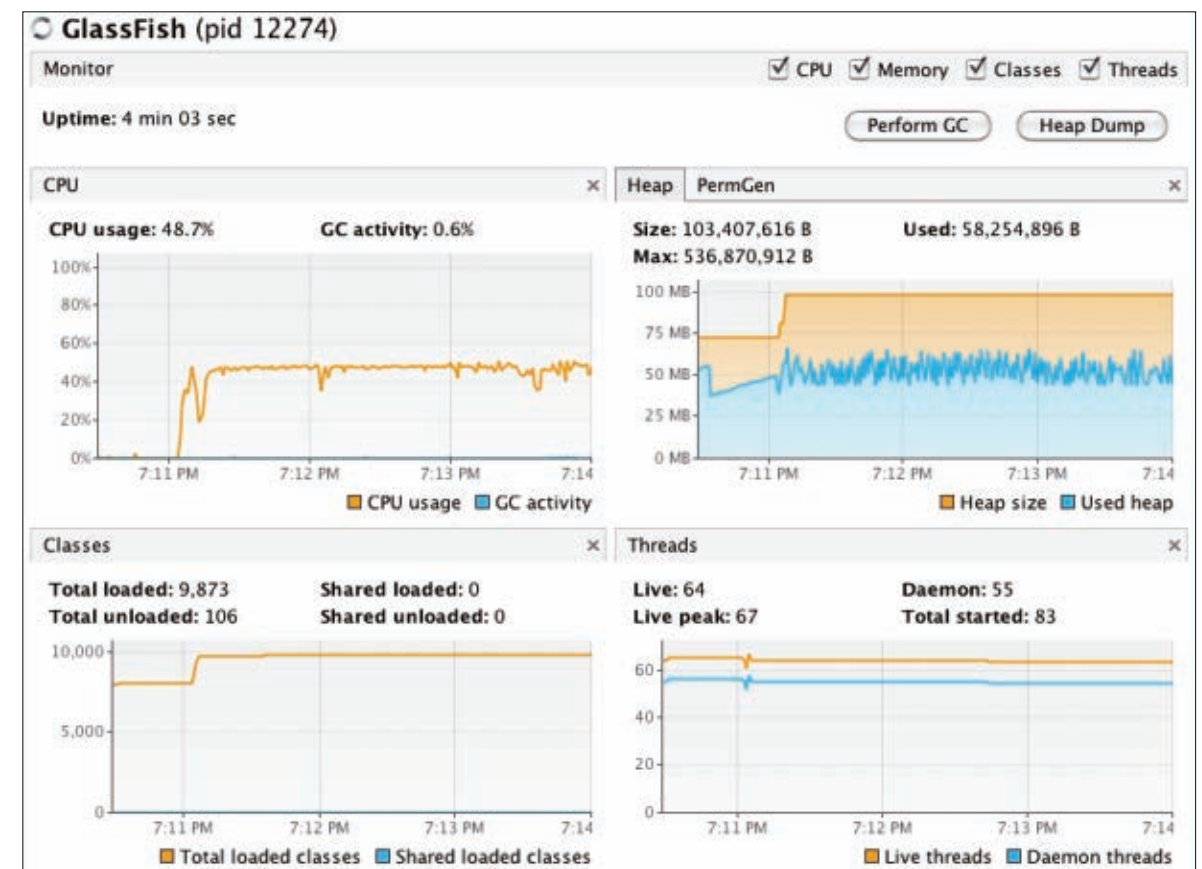
with the current JDK, you should check the [VisualVM Website](#) for updates.

VisualVM is able to connect locally or remotely to a Java process and monitor it. VisualVM provides an overview showing CPU load, memory consumption, number of loaded classes, and number of threads, as shown in **Figure 3**.

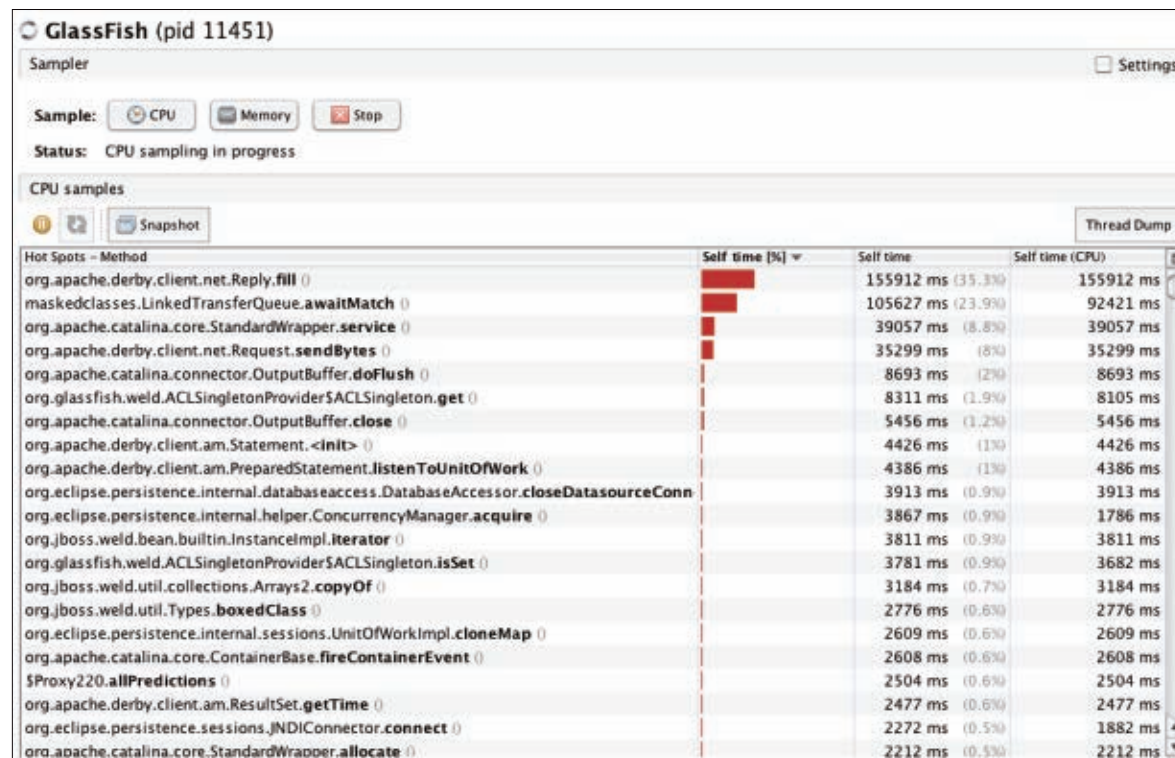
The overview is great for estimating resource consumption and monitoring the overall stability of the system. We learn from **Figure 3** that for 1,700 transactions per second, GlassFish Server Open Source Edition 3.1 needs 58 MB for the heap, 67 threads, and about 50 percent of the CPU. The other 50 percent was consumed by the load generator (JMeter).

Although this colocation is adequate for the purposes of this article, it blurs the results. The load generator should run on a dedicated machine or at least in an isolated (virtual) environment. Sometimes, you even have to run [distributed JMeter load tests](#) to generate enough load to stress the server. For internet applications, it might be necessary to deploy the load generators into the cloud.

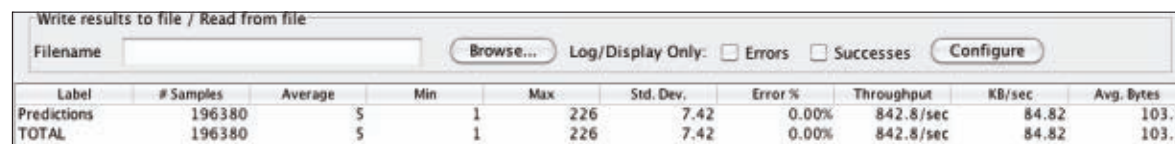
In a stress test scenario, the plain numbers are interesting but unimportant. Stress tests do not generate a realistic load, but rather they try to break the system. To ensure stability, you should monitor the VisualVM Overview



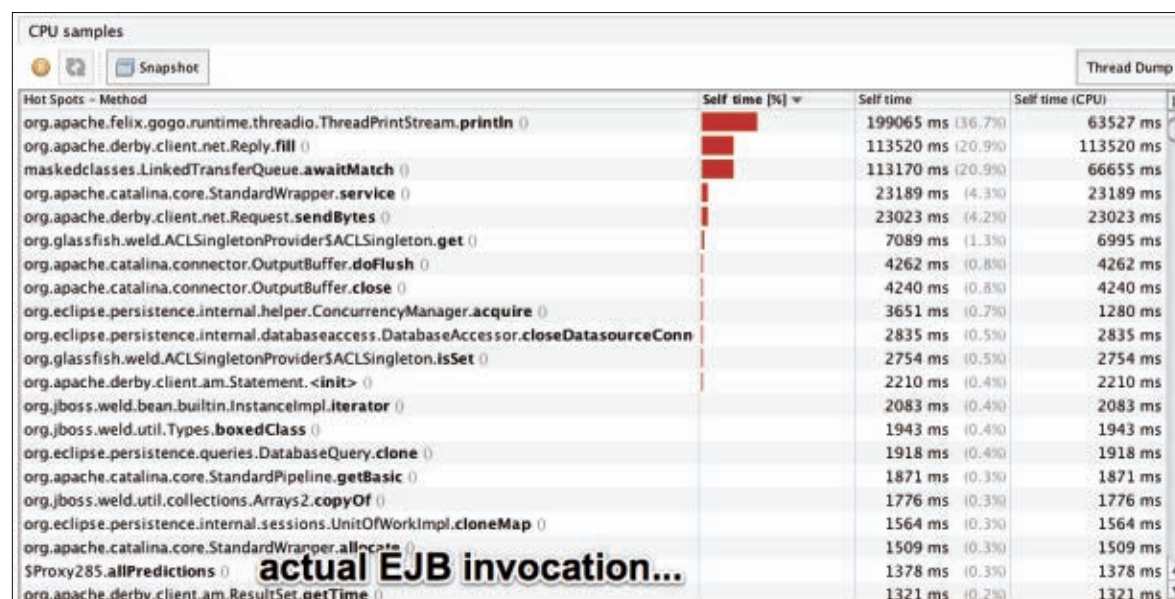
### Figure 3



### Figure 4




### Figure 5



### Figure 6

## LISTING 1

```
public List<Prediction> allPredictions(){
    System.out.println("-- returning predictions");
    return this.em.createNamedQuery(Prediction.findAll).getResultList();
}
```

 [See all listings as text](#)

average values. All the lines should be, on average, flat.

An increasing number of loaded classes might indicate problems with class loading and can lead to an **OutOfMemoryError** due to a shortage of **PermGen** space. An increasing number of threads indicates slow, asynchronous methods. A **ThreadPool** configured with an unbounded number of threads will also lead to an **OutOfMemoryError**. And a steady increase in memory consumption can eventually lead to an **OutOfMemoryError** caused by memory leaks.

VisualVM comes with an interesting profiling tool called Sampler. You can attach and detach to a running Java process with a little overhead and measure the most-expensive invocations or the size of objects (see **Figure 4**).

The sampling overhead is about 20 percent, so with an active sampler, you can still achieve 1,400 transactions per second. As expected, the application spends the largest amount of time communicating with the database.

## How Expensive Is System.out.println?

A single `System.out.println` can lead to significant performance degradation. To

measure the overhead, every invocation of the method `allPredictions` is logged with a `System.out.println` invocation, as shown in **Listing 1**.

Instead of 1,700 transactions per second, we are able to perform only about 800 transactions per second, as shown in **Figure 5**.

Let's take a look at the VisualVM Sampler output shown in **Figure 6**. More time is spent in `ThreadPrintStream.println()` than in the most expensive database operation.

The actual EJB 3.1 overhead is negligible. The `$Proxy285.allPredictions()` invocation is in the very last position and orders of magnitude faster than a single `System.out.println`.

Having a reference measurement makes identification of potential bottlenecks easy. You should perform stress tests as often as possible and compare the results. Performing nightly stress tests from the very first iteration is desirable. You will get fresh results each morning so you can start fixing potential bottlenecks.

## Causing More Trouble

Misconfigured application servers are a common cause of bottlenecks. GlassFish



Server Open Source Edition 3.1 comes with reasonable settings, so we can reduce the maximum number of connections from the Derby pool to two connections to simulate a bottleneck. With five concurrent threads (users) and only two database connections, there should be some contention (see **Figure 7**).

The performance is still surprisingly good. We get 1,400 transactions per second with two connections. The max response time went up to 60 seconds, which correlates surprisingly well with the “Max Wait Time: 60000 ms” connection pool setting in GlassFish Server Open Source Edition 3.1. A hint in the log files also points to the problem, as shown in **Listing 2**.

Also interesting is the Sampler view in VisualVM (see **Figure 8**).

The method `JNDIConnector.connect()` became the most expensive method. It even displaced the `Reply.fill()` method from its first rank.

The package `org.eclipse.persistence` is the JPA provider for GlassFish Server Open Source Edition 3.1, so it should give us a hint about the bottleneck’s location. There is nothing wrong with the persistence layer; it only has to wait for a free connection. This contention is caused by the artificial limitation of having only two connections available for five virtual users.

A look at the `JNDIConnector.connect` method confirms our suspicion (see **Listing 3**). In the method `JNDIConnector.connect`, a connection is acquired from a `DataSource`. In the case of an empty pool, the method will block until either an

| Label       | # Samples | Average | Min | Max   | Std. Dev. | Error % | Throughput | KB/sec | Avg. Bytes |
|-------------|-----------|---------|-----|-------|-----------|---------|------------|--------|------------|
| Predictions | 290190    | 3       | 0   | 60028 | 258.55    | 0.00%   | 1398.2/sec | 146.14 | 107.0      |
| TOTAL       | 290190    | 3       | 0   | 60028 | 258.55    | 0.00%   | 1398.2/sec | 146.14 | 107.0      |

Figure 7

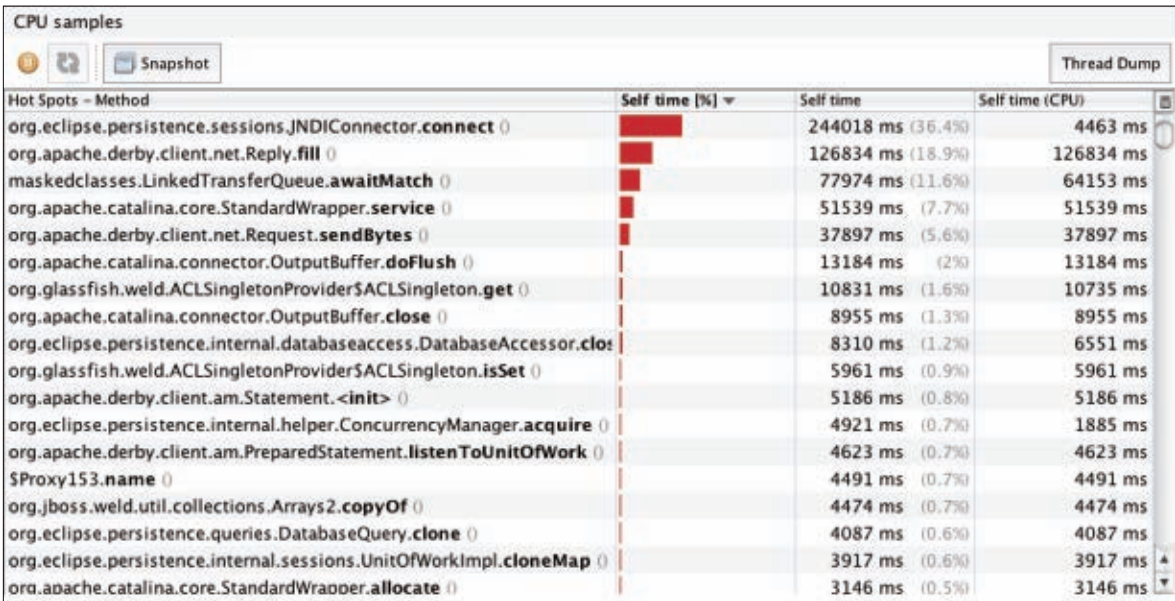


Figure 8

LISTING 2 LISTING 3

```
WARNING: RAR5117 : Failed to obtain/create connection from connection pool
[ SamplePool ]. Reason : com.sun.appserv.connectors.internal.api.PoolingException:
In-use connections equal max-pool-size and expired max-wait-time. Cannot allocate
more connections.
WARNING: RAR5114 : Error allocating connection : [Error in allocating a connection.
Cause: In-use connections equal max-pool-size and expired max-wait-time. Cannot
allocate more connections.]
```

See all listings as text

in-use connection becomes free or the Max Wait Time is reached. The method can block up to 60 seconds with the GlassFish Server Open Source Edition default settings. This rarely happens with the default settings, because the server ships with a Maximum Pool Size of 32 database connections.

How to Get the Interesting Stuff

The combination of JMeter and VisualVM is useful for ad hoc measurements. In real-world projects, stress tests should be not only repeatable but also comparable. A history of results with visualization makes the resultant comparison and identification of hotspots easier.

VisualVM provides a good overview, but the really interesting monitoring information can be obtained only from an application server in a proprietary way. All major application servers provide extensive monitoring information via Java Management Extensions (JMX).

GlassFish Server Open Source Edition 3.1 exposes its monitoring and management data through an easily accessible Representational State Transfer (REST) interface.

To activate the monitoring, open the GlassFish Admin Console by specifying the Admin Console URI (`http://localhost:4848`). Then select **Server**, select **Monitor**, and then select **Configure Monitoring**. Then select the **HIGH** level for all components. Alternatively, you can activate monitoring by using the `asadmin` command from the command line or by using the REST management interface.

Now, all the monitoring information is accessible from the following root URI: `http://localhost:4848/monitoring/domain/server`. The interface is self-explanatory. You can navigate through the components from a browser or from the command line.

The command `curl -H "Accept: application/json" http://localhost:4848/monitoring/domain/server/jvm/memory/`









VIKRAM GOYAL



# Getting Started with GameCanvas and the Mobile Sensor API

Learn the concepts behind developing a location-aware game using the Mobile Sensor API.

As location-aware applications have become de rigueur, there has been an increasing demand to include location-based features in gaming as well. Most smartphones these days support the concepts behind location-aware games and applications, and Java is not behind in this respect. The Location API, JSR-179, provides all the nuts and bolts you need, so it is quite easy to incorporate location-based features in your games. For a quick overview of this API, see my article on [gaming basics](#).

This article is the first article in a two-part series. In this article, I introduce the concepts behind developing a location-aware game, and I discuss how to use the Mobile Sensor API, JSR-256.

In Part 2, I will cover the Location API and explain the concepts required for combining location data with information from sensors to make a complete game.

This two-part series is not about developing a full-fledged game;

rather, it introduces the concepts for how to combine location data with mobile sensors to make a game that can be the launching pad for a complete game. It introduces these concepts from a single player's perspective.

**Note:** The source code for the game I develop in this two-part series can be downloaded [here](#).

## The Game

The idea behind the game that I develop in this two-part series is simple. There is a red ball on the screen (see **Figure 1**), and you, as the first player, have to roll the ball left or right. Your friend, who has a compatible phone and game, has to “catch” the ball as it falls off your screen.

Two things have to be done to enable this. First, your gaming MIDlet needs to know if there are other players near you who have the capability of being a catcher, while you announce your availability. Second, you need to roll the ball using the accelerometer

sensor on your phone and broadcast that to the other player so that her phone can catch it.

## Understanding Gaming

From the simplest coding perspective, gaming is the art of repeatedly executing the same piece of code and updating screen variables depending on the user's (and game engine) input. A loop for repeatedly executing code is required in order to do the same thing over and over again until something in the gaming environment changes, due to either an external event (a player quits, for example) or an internal event (a time-out interval, for example). The loop checks an instance variable to make sure that none of those events has happened, and if none has, the repeated execution continues.

The loop checks for game inputs from the player and the environment and responds to them by updating its own internal variables and the game state.

The game state is reflected on the screen, and the screen is thus updated. The loop pauses for a predetermined interval to let the game refresh itself.

The Java Platform, Micro Edition (Java ME) API provides five classes that help with the development of games: [GameCanvas](#), [Layer](#), [Sprite](#), [TiledLayer](#), and [LayerManager](#). All these classes are in the `javax.microedition.lcdui.game` package and provide attributes and properties over and above the normal classes.



Figure 1

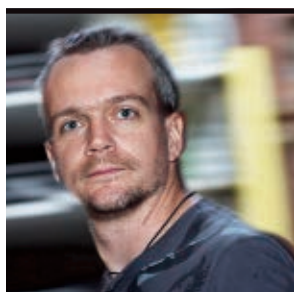
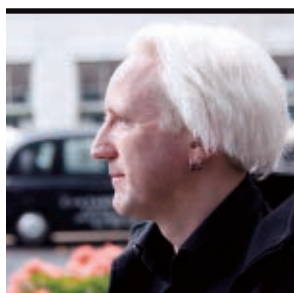
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**BENJAMIN J. EVANS AND  
MARTIJN VERBURG**

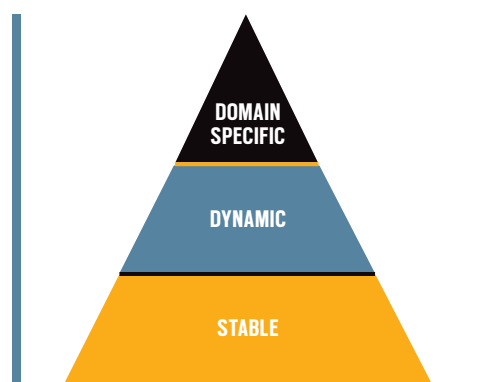
BIO

# Polyglot Programming on the JVM

Tips about how and why to choose a non-Java language for your project

The following is an excerpt from *The Well-Grounded Java Developer*, which Manning Publications is due to release in January 2012.

The phrase *polyglot programming on the JVM* is relatively new. It was coined to describe projects that utilize one or more non-Java Java Virtual Machine (JVM) languages alongside a core of Java code. One common way to think about polyglot programming is as a form of separation of concerns. As you can see in **Figure 1**, there are potentially three layers where non-Java technologies can play a useful role. This diagram is sometimes called the polyglot programming pyramid and comes from the work of Ola Bini.



**Figure 1**

Within the pyramid, you can see three well-defined layers: domain-specific, dynamic, and stable. **Table 1** shows these three layers in more detail.

As you can see, there are patterns in the layers—the statically typed languages tend to gravitate toward tasks in the stable layer. Conversely, the less powerful and more specific-purpose technologies tend to be suited to domain roles at the top of the pyramid.

In the middle of the pyramid, we see that there is a rich role for languages in the dynamic tier. These languages are also the most flexible; in many cases, overlap might exist between the dynamic tier and either of the neighboring tiers.

Let's dig a little deeper into this diagram and look at why Java isn't the best choice for everything on the pyramid.

## Why Use a Non-Java Language?

Java's nature as a general-purpose, statically typed, compiled language provides many advantages. These qualities make the language a great choice for implementing functionality in the stable layer.

| LAYER           | DESCRIPTION                                                                                  | EXAMPLES                                 |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| DOMAIN-SPECIFIC | DOMAIN-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE (DSL); TIGHTLY COUPLED TO A SPECIFIC PART OF THE APPLICATION DOMAIN | APACHE CAMEL DSL, DROOLS, WEB TEMPLATING |
| DYNAMIC         | RAPID, PRODUCTIVE, FLEXIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY                                     | GROOVY, JYTHON, CLOJURE                  |
| STABLE          | CORE FUNCTIONALITY, STABLE, WELL-TESTED, PERFORMANT                                          | JAVA, SCALA                              |

**Table 1**

However, these same attributes become a burden in the middle and upper tiers of the pyramid; for example:

- Recompilation is laborious.
- Static typing can be inflexible and lead to long refactoring times.
- Deployment is a heavyweight process.
- Java's syntax is not a natural fit for producing DSLs.

A pragmatic solution is to play to Java's strengths and take advantage of its rich API and library support to do the heavy lifting for the application—down in the stable layer.

If you're starting a new project from scratch, you might also find that another stable layer language (for example, Scala) has a

particular feature (for example, superior concurrency support) that is important to your project. In most cases, however, you should not throw out working stable layer code and rewrite it in a different stable language.

At this point, you may be asking yourself, "What type of programming challenges fit inside these layers? Which languages should I choose?" A well-grounded Java developer knows that there is no silver bullet, but there are some criteria you can consider when evaluating your choices.

## How to Choose a Language for Your Project

Once you've decided to experiment with non-Java approaches in your project, you need to iden-

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JOHN BLYTHE AND BOB ADLER



tify which parts of your project best suit a dynamic layer or domain-specific layer approach. **Table 2** highlights some tasks that might be suitable for each layer.

There is a wide range of natural use cases for alternative languages. However, identifying a task that could be accomplished with an alternative language is just the beginning. You now need to evaluate whether using an alternative language is appropriate. Here are some useful criteria that we take into account when considering technology stacks:

- Is the project area low risk?
- How easily does the language inter-operate with Java?
- What tooling and testing support is available for the language?
- How easy is it to compile, test, build, and deploy software in this language?
- How difficult is the learning curve?
- How easy or difficult is it to hire developers with experience in this language?

Let's dive into each of these areas so you get an idea of the sorts of questions you need to be asking yourself.

### Is the Project Area Low Risk?

Let's say you have a core, payment-processing rules engine that handles more than 1 million transactions a day. It is a stable piece of Java software that has been around for more than seven years, but there are not many tests for it and there are plenty of dark corners in the code. The core of this engine is clearly a high-risk area for a new language, especially because it is running successfully and there is a lack of test

coverage and a shortage of developers who fully understand it.

However, there is more to a system than just its core processing. For example, this is a situation where better tests would clearly help. [Scala](#) has a great testing framework called `ScalaTest`. This enables developers to produce JUnit-like tests for Java code but without a lot of the boilerplate that JUnit seems to generate. So, once they are over the initial learning curve, developers can be much more productive at improving the test coverage. `ScalaTest` also provides a great way to gradually introduce concepts such as Behavior-Driven Development to the codebase. These concepts can really help when the time comes to refactor or replace parts of the core—regardless of whether the new processing engine ends up being written in Java or Scala.

Or, suppose that the operations users would like to have a Web console built so they can administer some of the noncritical, static data behind the payment-processing system. The developers already know Struts and JavaServer Faces, but they don't feel any enthusiasm for either technology. This is another low-risk area to try out a new language and technology stack. One obvious choice would be Grails. Developer buzz, backed up by some studies (including one by [Matt Raible](#)), is that Grails is the best available Web framework for productivity.

By focusing on a limited pilot in a low-risk area, the manager always has the option of terminating the project

and porting to a different delivery technology without too much disruption, if it turns out that the attempted technology stack was not a good fit for the team or system.

## Does It Interoperate with Java?

You don't want to lose the value of all that great Java code you've already written. This is one of the main reasons organizations are hesitant to introduce a new programming language into their technology stack. However, with alternative languages that run on the JVM, you can turn this concern on its head—so it becomes about maximizing the existing value in your codebase, not about throwing away working code.

Alternative languages on the JVM are able to cleanly interoperate with Java and can, of course, be deployed in a pre-existing environment. This is especially important when discussing this step with the production management folks. By using a non-Java JVM language as part of your system, you'll be able to make use of their expertise in supporting the existing

environment. This can help reduce risk and alleviate any worries they might have about the new solution.

**Note:** DSLs are typically built using a dynamic (or, in some cases, stable) layer language, so many of them run on the JVM via the languages they were built in.

Some languages interoperate with Java more easily than others. We've found that most popular JVM alternatives have good interoperability with Java. Run a few experiments first to really make sure you understand how the integration can work for you.

Take Groovy, for example. You can simply import Java packages directly into its code using the familiar **import** statement. You can build a quick Website using the Groovy-based Grails framework and yet still reference your Java model objects. Conversely, it's very easy for Java to call Groovy code in a variety of ways and to receive familiar Java objects. One example use case could be calling out to Groovy from Java to process some JSON and having a Java object be returned.

| Layer           | Example Problem Domains                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Domain-Specific | Build, Continuous Integration, and Continuous Deployment<br>Dev-Ops<br>Enterprise Integration Pattern (EIP) Modeling<br>Business Rules Modeling                      |
| Dynamic         | Rapid Web Development<br>Prototyping<br>Interactive Administrative/User Consoles<br>Scripting<br>Test-Driven Development (TDD) and Behavior-Driven Development (BDD) |
| Stable          | Concurrent Code<br>Application Containers<br>Core Business Functionality                                                                                             |

### Table 2



means that the team needs to think carefully about how to divide up a project, especially for deployment of separate but related components.

Most developers underestimate the amount of time they save once they become comfortable in their environment. Their powerful IDEs, build tools, and test tools help them rapidly produce high-quality software. Java developers have benefited from great tooling support for years now, so it's important to remember that other languages might not be at quite the same level of maturity.

Some languages (for example, Groovy) have had long-standing IDE support for compiling, testing, and deploying the end result. Other languages might have tooling that is not as fully matured yet. For example, Scala's IDEs are not as polished as those of Java, but Scala

## Is It Difficult to Learn?

It always takes time to learn a new language, and that time only increases if the paradigm of the language is not one that your development team is familiar with. Most Java development teams will be comfortable picking up a new language if it is object-oriented with a C-like syntax.

It gets harder for Java developers as they move further away from this paradigm. Scala tries to bridge the gap between the object-oriented and the functional worlds, but the jury is still out on whether this fusion is viable for large-scale software projects. At the extreme end of the popular alternative languages, a language such as Clojure can bring incredibly powerful benefits but can also represent a significant retraining requirement for development teams.

One alternative is to look at the JVM languages that are reimplementations of existing languages. Ruby and Python are well-established languages with plenty of available material with which developers can educate themselves. The JVM incarnations of these languages could provide a sweet spot for your teams to begin working with an easy-to-learn, non-Java language.

## Do Developers Use the Language?

Organizations have to be pragmatic; they can't always hire the top two per-

cent, and their development teams will change throughout the course of a year. Some languages, such as Groovy and Scala, are becoming established enough that there is a pool of developers to hire from. However, a language such as Clojure is still finding its way to popularity and, therefore, finding good Clojure developers is difficult.

Again, the reimplemented languages can potentially help here. Few developers might have JRuby on their résumés, but because it is just Ruby on the JVM there is actually a large pool of developers to hire from.

**Note:** One word of warning about the reimplemented languages: Many existing packages and applications written, for example, in Ruby, are tested only against the original, C-based implementation. This means that there might be problems when trying to use them on top of the JVM. When making platform decisions, you should factor in extra testing time if you are planning to leverage an entire stack written in a reimplemented language.

## Summary

For the polyglot programmer, languages fall roughly into three programming layers: stable, dynamic, and domain-specific. Languages such as Java and Scala are best used for the stable layer of software development, while others, such as Groovy and Clojure, are more suited to tasks in the dynamic or domain-specific realms.

Certain programming challenges fit well into particular layers, for example,

rapid Web development for the dynamic layer or modeling enterprise messaging for the domain-specific layer.

It's worth emphasizing again that the core business functionality of an existing production application is almost never the correct place to start when introducing a new language. The core is where high-grade support, excellent test coverage, and a proven track record of stability are paramount. Rather than start here, choose a low-risk area for the first deployment of an alternative language.

Finally, always remember that every team and project has its own unique characteristics that will affect the language choice. When choosing to implement a new language, managers and senior techs must consider the nature of their projects and team.

A small team composed exclusively of experienced propellerheads might choose Clojure for its clean design, sophistication, and power. Meanwhile, a Web shop that is looking to grow the team quickly and attract young developers might choose Groovy and Grails for the productivity gains and relatively deep talent pool. </article>

**LEARN MORE**

- *The Well-Grounded Java Developer*
- *Scala in Action* (Manning, 2010)
- *AspectJ in Action, Second Edition* (Manning, 2009)
- *DSLs in Action* (Manning, 2010)

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## WHEN TO EVALUATE

There is a wide range of natural use cases for **alternative languages**. However, identifying a task that could be accomplished with an alternative language is just the beginning. You **now need to evaluate** whether using an alternative language is appropriate.

Oracle's **Alex Buckley** talks with *Java Magazine* about the 2011 JVM Language Summit and the evolution of the JVM and the Java platform. **BY MICHAEL MELOAN**

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The JVM Language Summit, which took place July 18–20, 2011, at Oracle’s Santa Clara campus, explored the state of the art in language design and implementation on the Java Virtual Machine (JVM). It was an open collaboration among VM architects, runtime engineers, tool builders, compiler experts, and language designers. The Summit presented an opportunity for a wide range

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## JVM FACT

In many cases, the **same tool suite** can be used on the JVM regardless of the source language.

Rémi Forax presented a cookbook of techniques for utilizing **invokedynamic** that are applicable to many languages. And Oracle's Brian Goetz talked about how to compile lambda expressions into JVM bytecode (coming in Java SE 8), in a way that doesn't

generate extra class files and that gives the Java compiler a great deal of flexibility in how to represent lambda expressions at runtime. This is accomplished by using **invokedynamic** to set up the creation of the lambda expressions, which are simply blocks of code, a bit like



a method, but without all the surrounding class structure.

**Java Magazine:** Will you give us an overview of some of the most important languages running on the JVM? And how might they be used with Java to improve developer productivity and create more-flexible and robust applications?

**Buckley:** Large systems today succeed based on their technical architecture. That architecture typically has many loosely coupled components, each fulfilling a very specific purpose. Typically, these components collaborate by sharing data in a relational database, or a message bus, or by exposing XML services to each other. The more loosely coupled this architecture, the easier it is to choose the best language for the different components.

User interfaces are generally Web-based and written in HTML or JavaScript, with middleware often written in Java, and back-end logic written in Java, Ruby, or Scala. Groovy is fairly common at build time, and server-side JavaScript is growing in popularity.

A well-designed architecture is clear about the functional components and how they interact. Then the appropriate language can be chosen for those components. Organizations are searching for the right mix of productivity and maintainability in the languages they use. Especially on the JVM, components can be swapped in and out over time. Sometimes a Java component is rewritten in Scala, and sometimes a JRuby component is rewritten in Java. In many cases, the same tool suite can be used on the

JVM regardless of the source language.

**Java Magazine:** Oracle's upcoming Nashorn JavaScript interpreter was covered at the JVM Language Summit. Can you give us some details?

**Buckley:** Nashorn is an Oracle-led project currently scheduled to be available to developers in JDK 8. It's an implementation of JavaScript running on the JVM, targeted specifically for the benefit of Java developers. We want to expose JavaScript to Java collections and Enterprise JavaBeans. And we want to ensure that the boundary between Java and JavaScript is as thin and interoperable as possible.

The development of a JavaScript interpreter is partially motivated by the fact that much of the world is moving toward HTML5 for cross-platform GUIs. HTML5 offers many JavaScript APIs for accomplishing some very useful tasks, such as location sensing or database access in the browser. The scope of HTML5 has expanded far beyond "markup" for layout, and the natural way for these additional front-end services to be exposed is through JavaScript. Nashorn would allow a non-browser JavaScript program running on the client or server direct access to standard JavaScript APIs and the vast collection of Java APIs.

The use of `invokedynamic` and method handles makes implementing JavaScript, which is an extremely dynamic and weakly typed object-based language, on the JVM surprisingly straightforward.

**Java Magazine:** How will the `invokedynamic` instruction be directly useful to the Java language in Java SE 8?

**Buckley:** The implementation of lambda expressions ([Project Lambda](#)) is a good example. It's something of a challenge, because the JVM is conceptually streamlined and very focused. The JVM has no knowledge of a lambda expression, a closure, or a continuation. It has no knowledge of type inference or any other language feature that might be designed in support of lambda expressions.

For many years, we could add features to the Java language that mapped directly to JVM features, or in the case of generics, did not show up in the JVM at all. That era of direct mapping is over. With Project Lambda, we needed a way to represent lambda expressions on top of the JVM in a way that is efficient and extensible. In terms of disk space, memory usage, and other overhead, anonymous inner classes were not a reasonable solution.

The `invokedynamic` instruction provided the solution. It essentially facilitates quick access to method handles. Method handles are really function pointers, and function pointers are a way of manipulating individual blocks of code, which is what lambda expressions are all about. The goal is to give the Java compiler a great deal of flexibility in how to represent these lambda expressions at runtime. That is accomplished by using `invokedynamic` to set up their creation.

**Java Magazine:** What are some examples of how lambda expressions could benefit Java developers in a tangible way?

**Buckley:** Lambda expressions are relevant with APIs. The bulk of what developers do involves utilizing someone else's APIs. A very common task in Java programming is iterating through a collection of business objects, finding ones that match some requirement, and passing that result on to the next step of the program.


Rather than extracting items and writing code to perform those operations (and hoping that nobody else is mutating the collection at the same time), using lambda expressions simplifies things dramatically. If you can pass code, in the form of a lambda expression, to a library, you are basically passing it to the collection itself. Then, concerns such as thread safety become the responsibility of the library implementer, rather than the responsibility of the calling programmer.

High-level operations improve software readability and performance.

### From Lambdas to Bytecode

#### Translation options

- Could translate directly to method handles
  - Desugar lambda body to a static method
  - Capture == take method reference + curry captured args
  - Invocation == MethodHandle.invoke
- Whatever translation we choose becomes not only implementation, but a binary specification
  - Want to choose something that will be good forever
  - Is the MH API ready to be a permanent binary specification?
  - Are raw MHs yet performance-competitive with inner classes?




**Brian Goetz, From Lambdas to Bytecode**


Having lambda expressions in the language

In other words, we don't specify the platform in terms of various software implementations; we

## THE FUNDAMENTALS

In a sense, **lambda expressions** are the fundamental primitive in a programming language, and now they can be implemented in an **efficient** manner.

### LISTING 3

 [See all listings as text](#)

I think JSR-292 did a remarkable job coming up with a design that satisfies language implementers and is fully implementable with proper performance by all the major JVM vendors. The design that was committed to will be part of the Java SE platform “forever,” because while JVM implementations come and go, the JVM itself is a lasting entity. There will probably be class files in computing

**Michael Meloan** began his professional career writing IBM mainframe and DEC PDP-11 assembly languages. He went on to code in PL/I, APL, C, and Java. In addition, his fiction has appeared in *WIRED*, *BUZZ*, *Chic*, *LA Weekly*, and on National Public Radio. He is also a Huffington Post blogger.

- [JSR-292: “Supporting Dynamically Typed Languages on the Java Platform”](#)
- [Project Lambda](#)
- [Java SE](#)





**Hint:** Check the  
HttpServlet API in  
the Java EE 6 API.

## 2 THE CODE

Consider the following piece of code to have database access within a Servlet:

```
@WebServlet(name = "TestServlet", urlPatterns = {"/TestServlet"})
public class TestServlet extends HttpServlet {

    @PersistenceContext
    EntityManager em;

    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request,
        HttpServletResponse response) {
        // Invoke methods on Entity Manager
    }
}
```

And now, for Gupta's latest challenge.

### 3 WHAT'S THE FIX?

Is this code guaranteed to work in a multithreaded environment?

- 1) Of course. All the samples are written this way.
- 2) No. Servlets are re-entrant, and EntityManager is not thread-safe. Instead inject as

```
@PersistenceUnit EntityManagerFactory em;
```

and then get EntityManager within the doGet() method.

- 3) Database access in Servlets must be done through EJBs only. The correct way is to move the database code in an EJB, inject the EJB in this Servlet, and invoke methods on the EJB.
- 4) EntityManager injection will not work in Servlets. Instead use `Persistence.createEntityManager` to obtain EntityManager in the `doGet()` method and then invoke operations on it.

Java EE 6 allows you to create Web applications very easily using annotations on POJOs. A POJO can be easily converted to a Servlet by adding `@WebServlet` and extending `HttpServlet`. A POJO becomes a JPA bean by adding `@Entity`. Each method of a Java class becomes implicitly transactional by adding `@Stateless`. Following the convention-over-configuration paradigm, the deployment descriptors are optional for most of the common cases.

GOT THE ANSWER?

Look for the answer in the next issue. Or submit your own code challenge!

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARGOT HARTFORD  
ART BY I-HUA CHEN

